

“ Together for a Better World International Summer WorkCamp”

August 2011– Why bother?

Share, swap and debate Youth entrepreneurship & Environment research and practice knowledge

This exciting Summer workcamp promises to be a creative mix of different individuals and groups from different backgrounds, coming together to examine what environmental protection research is telling us AND consider ways of working in light of these findings.

Just how does youth entrepreneurship and giving back to the community help us to foster healthy responses in times of trouble?

- Young Researchers
- Sustainability Practitioners
- Career professionals
- Policy makers
- Community Service users
- Young adults

The workcamp is a collaborative venture, organised by Cameroonian NGO, Better World Cameroon together with community partners, in association with NICE Japan and Solidarite France.



The idea behind Better World Cameroon’s “Together for a Better World” International Summer WorkCamp:

“There are enormous opportunities for youth initiatives to engage with each other and to spread their work into the international arena. Climate change, Sustainable Living and the Environment affect not just us here in Africa but the entire planet. If we can engage with the next generation to see the positive and negative effect our actions have on the most disadvantaged around the world, and to collaborate in addressing some of these issues, we will help to create a safer and more secure planet”



Organized by NICE Japan, Solidarites Jeunesse France and Better World Cameroon on the theme: **Youth Entrepreneurship and Sustainable development**. To take place on August 1-21, 2011 at the Better World Ecological Literacy Centre in Yaoundé, Cameroon, West Africa.

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History



On February 10-17, 2011, researchers representing Nice Japan and Solidarites Jeunesse France, youth development organizations working with the Ministries of Youth of their countries travelled to Cameroon to meet with Better World Cameroon New Breed Volunteers, local authorities, political, academic, peace building and cultural experts in Cameroon to create a platform for Cameroon and the Central African region.

The come together was organized by Better World Cameroon (BWC), in collaboration with the Cameroon Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Cameroon One World Linking Association (COWLA).

National Student Volunteers and international volunteer leaders dedicated to cross-cultural education, youth mobilization and sensitization, corporate environmental responsibility, moral and traditional values met and resolved that the concept of “Together for a Better World” International Summer WorkCamp be based on development education and the culture of peace.

“Through Better World Cameroon, we have had the incredibly unique opportunity to interact with eminent personalities and institutions in Cameroon working on youth entrepreneurship and environmental protection”, said Anna Duflout, French researcher scoping the Cameroon initiative on behalf of Solidarites Jeunesse France.



Participants explored the many issues surrounding Cameroon’s youth, environmental and sustainable development sectors by engaging with local communities in dialogue, cultural exchange, and practical action. The team resolved that the Cameroon Summer WorkCamp will be focused on researching on measures being taken in Cameroon to mitigate Climate Change and reporting to national and international partners and all stakeholders through BWC Newsletter and websites.

The participants had the chance to travel throughout the national capital and interacted with diverse groups of the 10 regions to obtain an in-depth picture of contemporary Cameroon.

Cameroon has largely existed in the market place of the international community since achieving independence because it is one of the most peaceful and prosperous countries in the region.

However, Cameroon also has many of the same challenges as its neighbours in sub Saharan Africa; every day its population faces complex issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, poor infrastructure, unemployment, corruption, environmental degradation, desertification and insecurity. Despite the relative peace that exists in Cameroon it should be noted that from 1994 to 2005 Cameroon and Nigeria were engulfed in a military conflict over the Bakassi peninsula on the Atlantic coastline of Cameroon. Thanks to an intense diplomatic process by the UN, led by Kofi Annan former UN Secretary General, Presidents Paul Biya of Cameroon and Olusegun Obassajo of Nigeria, this conflict was peacefully resolved in August 2005.

The Ndanifor Community Garden Project (NCGP) in Yaoundé from which this project has grown, was created in 2006 in association with NGUKT to provide affordable land-based income generating activities to low-income youth living in city slums and organizing “Useful Holiday Classes” in Cameroon. NCGP Biodiversity and Youth Entrepreneurship Courses over the years have provided livelihoods to 78 young men and women and their families and enabling the socially excluded to increase their food productivity and live fuller lives. Out of these have been selected a new breed of volunteers called Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC) to create the Ndanifor Eco-Lodge and related social enterprises as a Better World Cameroon Sustainable Development Incubator.

The capacity building programmes of Ndanifor are value-driven and are not based on maximizing wealth. They are based on BWC’s desire to address youth unemployment and children’s social exclusion in a systematic way that inspires their search for break through solutions.



The programmes basically address barriers to literacy, sustainable sanitation, safe drinking water and access to development education.

FUTURE:

Although the field of social entrepreneurship is young in Cameroon, NCGP’s Ecological Literacy centre run by BSNC through Together for a Better World International Summer WorkCamp is signalling some new possibilities for addressing some of the most daunting and seemingly intractable challenges of youth unemployment in Cameroon. The new Eco-lodge scheme has been established to put a human face to the search for solutions to poverty and the making of a Better World for all. The Eco-Lodge project will serve BSNC, the new change-makers of Ndanifor and international volunteers, accompanying them on a journey of mutual discovery and transformation.



Through the discipline of social enterprise planning, Ndanifor Eco-Lodge will help workCamp participants and Ndanifor young entrepreneurs to understand Permaculture processes of modern agricultural production, climate change mitigation and adaptation, fair trade as well as generating the capital for accelerating sustainable growth.

While recognising the important need for seed capital through philanthropic financing and cross cultural collaboration including government and other NGO partners, BWC places a particular emphasis on earned income and long term financial sustainability.

RATIONALE



Urban Slum and socially excluded youth and children in rural areas need not only basic education, but also development education in order to have the ability to deal with an increasingly complex and connected world. Together for a Better World International Summer WorkCamp is out to create inclusive innovative educational solutions that will address all sections of society and help transform them through special vocational education programs with the support of international partners. Now, more than ever before, at Better World Cameroon, it is critical to look at solutions that complement the framework of traditional schooling in poverty stricken urban and rural areas. Cross-Cultural Education is one such solution – a solution that uses IT, the power of collaboration and the natural curiosity of children to catalyze learning.

Better World Cameroon possesses a community of young change makers who work tirelessly to creatively battle the Challenge of the digital divide.



Together for a Better World is the right start to incubation of social enterprise development in Cameroon in response to major challenges facing small holder famers, and a place where young people come to grow their ideas. At Better World jobs may be lacking but creativity is not lacking. Better World is a Youth Employment Strategy that supports measures for youth/women entrepreneurship, sustainable development, attaining the MDGs and building a Better World for all.

Innovation and commitment under ever changing difficult circumstances is being supported, both at home and abroad, in order for Better World Cameroon's efforts towards a Better World to be sustainable.

Unfortunately, this youth movement of Change Makers is still lacking financial support and a network of likeminded colleagues and specialized institutions with whom to share ideas and reach out to the broader global community. Some western media like *Positive News* recognizes the importance BWC combining indigenous knowledge with scientific theories and works to share Better our stories with the international community.

Japanese, French and Cameroonian immersion participants this year will carry these messages to other parts of the world, establishing a wider network for those advocating for peace and sustainable development in Cameroon.

GOALS

The goal of Together for a better World International Summer WorkCamp is to identify, encourage, and support young people from around the world and Cameroon to work together and to understand the critical role they can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation, peace building and sustainable development processes at work in Cameroon and the sub region. This year's WorkCamp will facilitate networking, encourage participants to improve their leadership skills, and promote the exchange of ideas and solutions. Critically, participants will form lasting friendships and partnerships with Cameroonian youth who are working to better their country through creative and pragmatic initiatives. The intended result will be a commitment on the part of the participants to remain engaged in the cooperative effort to the global environment and support women empowerment and youth development in Cameroon.



The common adage states that "we are all in the same boat." However, in today's world, when it comes to matters of war and peace, poverty and opportunity, desperation and optimism, youth activists must look beyond their own communities. This is why Better World Cameroon, Nice Japan and Solidarites Jeunesses France have worked together to bring this International Summer WorkCamp project to reality. Negotiations are on going for other international youth exchange networks to join in. BWC has been recognized by the Cameroon government as a unique indigenous youth development NGO with a high enough potential of

bringing together Cameroon's commitment to the international youth exchange arena and market African biodiversity conservation and cultural conservation values in the global market place of ideas. Please visit our soil and soul spirit of Ndanifor:



www.betterworld-cameroon.com

BWC's powerful resources and experiences will be used to support and empower the social enterprise work of Together for a Better World International Summer WorkCamp that is strongly believe to make significant impact in real global climate change issues. The common project of regenerating the community garden that was destroyed by floods and building Ndanifor Eco-Lodge together will enable Cameroonian youth to participate more actively in world environmental issues from an African perspective.

Joshua Konkankoh

National Coordinator, Better World Cameroon

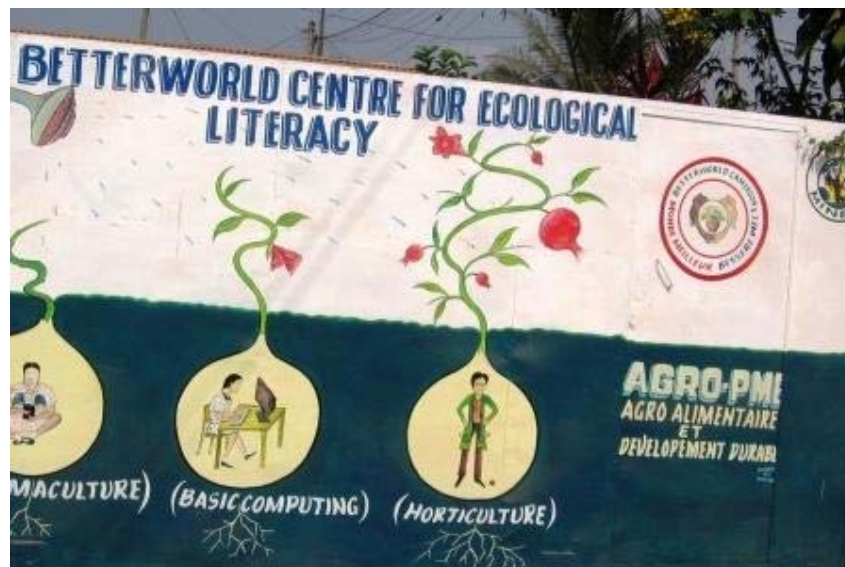
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PROGRAM LOCATION



Yaoundé – The capital of Cameroon, Yaoundé has a population of about 2 million people. Situated in a city of seven hills and seven valleys, it is home to government buildings, sprawling markets, a number of Universities whose students (our target beneficiaries) are living in the city slums.



Bafut - Bafut is a Sub Division in the North West Region. It is famous for its German constructed palace and Museum that is endowed with a rich repertoire of colonial relics.

COSTS AND WHAT IS COVERED

The total cost of the fee is £2,250. This includes the airfare, preparatory materials, and all accommodation, transportation, and meals in-country. A 20% deposit is due by July 14th, and the full program fee by August 1st 2011.

There are a number of additional costs that participants will incur outside of the program fee. BWC will facilitate obtaining of visas by furnishing required documents.

Participants will be responsible their own travel insurance. Visitors to Cameroon are required to have a yellow fever inoculation.

We suggest bringing approximately £200 – 300 personal spending money and buying of souvenirs.

** Participants with financial needs are encouraged to seek donations, fundraise, or apply for scholarships in the months leading up to the trip.*

Upon arrival at Nsimalen Air port In Yaoundé, participants will reside at BWC Ecological Literacy guest house. During in country trips we will rent mini buses and rely on public transportation.

STAFF BIOS



Joshua Konkankoh
Program Coordinator, Better World Cameroon

Joshua is one of Cameroon's brightest youth activists. In 1996, together with the Association of Unemployed Youth of Yaoundé University he founded the Better World Cameroon NGO. Currently, he is the Secretary of the Cameroon One World Linking Association (COWLA).



Luara Atabe

Administrative Assistant, and Certified Permaculture trainer. She studied Permaculture at the Fambidzanai Permaculture Training Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe and was certified by the International Permaculture Convergence IPC9 in Malawi in 2009.



Sonita Mbah

Public Relations Officer, Volunteer Theatre Arts Student from The University of Yaoundé I, English Department University of Yaoundé I.



Yumiko Shinya Japanese Volunteer from JICA Cameroon.
Facilitator for International Volunteers.
Other staff will be designated by Nice and Solidarites Jeunesses in the days ahead.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE, TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD –CAMEROON

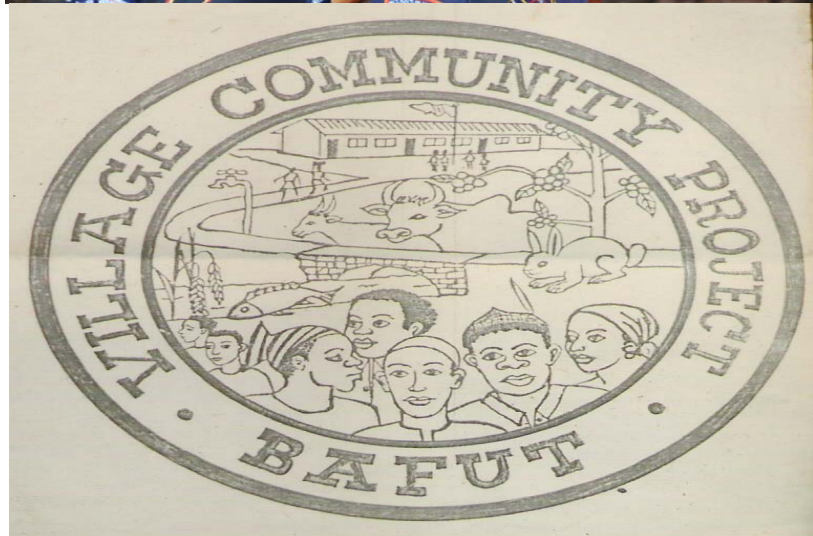


* Still under discussion with partners. Full Programme of activities will be available on May 15th.
To apply for the 2011 Cameroon TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD –CAMEROON please send an email to foundation@betterworld-cameroon.com to receive an Application form.

If you have any questions please contact:

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BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL !