



BETTERWORLD CAMEROON

FONDATION BIEN ETRE

NDANIFOR PERMACULTURE AND ECO VILLAGE GETS UNDERWAY

BETTERNEWS

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New way forward for BWC as new VSO Organizational Development advisor arrives

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EDITORIAL

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP GAINS GROUNDS IN CAMEROON

For too many unemployed graduates and students in Cameroon today, the opportunities to help themselves are a distant dream and the cycles of poverty and unfulfilled aspirations remain unbroken. Many young people are also prevented from demanding their rights to work or are simply unaware of them.

Better World Cameroon (BWC) doesn't think this is right. BWC believes action needs to be taken by the youth. "Together for a Better World" international summer work camp is a network of young people from various backgrounds whose aim is to promote the good work already being done by the Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC), to give young people a chance to find out more about youth entrepreneurship and ultimately to encourage them to participate and take an active role in the development of their communities.



Volunteers plant trees in Basic Education Foundation school to mark their presence during the International Mini Workcamp.

The "Together for a Better World" International Summer Workcamp supports youth-initiated community projects that strengthen livelihoods and give young people a voice in determining their own future. The workcamp participants are unified by a desire to provide their knowledge, skills and create opportunities for the less fortunate who Better World Cameroon supports. The activities of the camp involve raising funds for building flood defenses on the Biyeme River course surrounding the garden, regenerating the garden and building the 'Commonwealth Eco-lodge'? and facilitating a strong on-line community where information and resources can be shared.

Since 1996, BWC has been building a thriving group of friends from around the world, drawn together by the need to learn more, share more, and achieve more. Coming together as individuals and friends to network and build support in whatever way to do more for others is one of our goals. By mobilizing diverse resources in cooperation with the Diaspora and professional institutions, BWC hopes to increase the capacity of individuals, (youth, women groups and development associations) to help underprivileged children and unemployed youth around the world.

With the help of friends and well wishers, we continue to make a real difference in the lives of children and young people who desperately need our support to acquire skills and resources, to exercise their right to work, care for their families and to speak freely in a peaceful common wealth of nations.

By joining a network of over 200 friends, you will find many opportunities to get involved.

You can make a difference and here's how:

If you have skills to offer, help to give, or something to say, the friends' discussion forum allows doing this and much more. Request a volunteer, propose a new initiative or give advice. Whatever it is, we want to hear it.

You can participate in any capacity.

Visit www.betterworld-cameroon.com and contact: foundation@betterworld-cameroon.com

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Joshua Konkankoh

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NEW VSO ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR ON PLACEMENT AT BETTER WORLD CAMEROON

I am a (Voluntary Services Overseas) VSO organizational development advisor from Maryland, USA and my name is Hye Mi AHN, my last name meaning tranquility in Korean. My name gives an indication of my personality – I prefer to be calm and relaxed.

It is a huge honor and privilege for me to volunteer at Better World Cameroon and live in Tam Tam for one year; the people here are warm and helpful.



My varied background in cultural anthropology and Non-Governmental work will hopefully contribute to the already talented and intelligent team here.

Together, I hope we do great things for people and the environment.

HYE MI AHN

VSO VOLUNTEER



Kelvin (VSO Participation & Governance Programme Officer) introduces the new OD Advisor Hye Mi



From left to right: Kelvin (VSO), Joshua (BWC), Hye Mi and Benice BWC Staff



Common meal - a sign of togetherness, one family in African Solidarity

Unity is a cord that ties communities together in peace

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OPEN WORLD CAFÉ CAMEROON

The Better World Cameroon (BWC) international mini work camp held in February 2011 paved the way and gave a big boost to Open World Café Cameroon. Our Open World Café is a wonderful open space to find peace and serenity with nature. It provides the interested public with the possibility of enjoying a variety of fresh organic products in the cafe – restaurant.



Fresh organic food served at the Open World Café was a pleasure for the Mini Workcamp participants

OWC Cameroon is a small business start up that is used for income generation and employment for unemployed youth. It equally serves as a suitable space for networking, business meetings, and watching Environmental Education Films in the background of soothing music. The BWC Open World Café provides a forum for discussion on solutions for global environmental issues.

Together with the dedicated staff of the café restaurant, the members of the BWC family respect and care for the earth because it is the source of all nature which we want to conserve.

ATABE SENGE Laura



Socializing while enjoying fresh organic food and drinks at Better World Cameroon's Open World Café



Partnership meeting between WPE and BSNC taking place in the Open World Cafe space

These include juice (ginger, pineapple), salads, fruits and vegetables (paw-paw, water melon), nuts (groundnuts) and a variety of traditional and continental dishes among others.



The Open World Café Cameroon provides convenient space for cross-cultural educational activities both for in and out door



If you can laugh together, you can work together

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e-CLASSROOM PROJECT TAKES LEAD IN BWC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ACTION



Pupils of Basic Education Foundation for the Underprivileged being groomed on what e-classroom is all about

After a series of consultative meetings with organizations and partners, Better World Cameroon (BWC) came up with the idea of e-classroom. Their quests to disseminate the idea lead to visits in various schools so as to pass on the knowledge to the youths.

BWC as a youth-focused organization and its passion to introduce and teach new ideas to its community enthusiastically informed them about e-classroom. BWC has offered a space with internet connection where 20 pupils and 10 students from underprivileged homes come to learn basic computing and is a forum to connect with other pupils and students in Europe and the rest of the world. The public will also benefit from computer training and documentation.

The idea of e-classroom is supported by one of BWC partner Enabling Support Foundation (ESF) which is linking the Better World Cameroon e-classroom program to the e-classroom program in Pakistan and other countries of the world.



Representative from NICE Japan encourage the idea of e-classroom and development education



Pupils displaying their skills of e-classroom during end of year closing ceremony to parents, visitors, teachers and their fellow pupils



Nursery pupils learn to understand basic computing & e-learning concepts

E-classroom has built the capacity of BWC volunteers, staff, and teachers of schools interested in basic computing, on-line pals and books, perm culture lectures, documentation and secretarial duties. To pupils and students they have had e-pals which help them exchange ideas on culture, friendship, environment and others.

We strongly advise that any idea you have in mind to start something should not come to an end by simply looking at the resource present at the time but start, and all other things will be put in place.

WIRDIN Benice MOSONI

Giving your life meaning through e-learning

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BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND THE FUTURE OF FOOD: A NEW DAWN AT BWC ECOLOGICAL LITERACY CENTER

Long before now, agriculture in our country had been the source of all food supply. Mostly those who produce the food are the villagers found in the interior, they work from dusk to dawn to gather their produce and yet sell the best products and eat less healthy products. Food is exported to neighboring countries like Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, and Europe.

The quest to always sell has led farmers to over-cultivate the land which now has become very unfertile with low yields and low productivity, which has led to the use of inorganic fertilizers.



BWC Agro forestry Project- Replanting a rain forest

GARDENING TIP: Interplant herbs as 'companion plants' – great for kitchen garden as well as repelling pests and drawing in beneficial insects.

Culled from Valley View Farms - USA



Farms of local farmers (left) and sensitization workshop (right) on Right to Food and Land



Farm of a villager who practices African Permaculture

Better World Cameroon with the knowledge of Permaculture (organic agriculture) is coming to rescue the situation by sensitizing them on the advantages of organic farming (no use of inorganic manure), sustainable agriculture for the future generation, Biodiversity conservation, Water Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), Classroom and environmental Education.



Better World Cameroon in collaboration with the African Network to Food on the Community Initiative For Sustainable Development (COMINSUD) platform is doing all it can through a series of workshops and sensitization campaigns with civil society organization and community organizations, on the topic of right to land and food there by implanting the idea of organic sustainable agriculture to the peasant farmers.

We at Better World Cameroon are giving a clarion call to each and every farmer, individual, and nature lover to preach and practice sustainability so the country can be a better place to live.

WIRDIN Benice

Team work makes the dream work

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WPE (WILD PLANET ECO-PROJECT)

Wild Planet Eco-project is a Cameroon-based NGO working in cooperation with Better World Cameroon (BWC). It has as its mission, *'The preservation and the conservation of the biodiversity of species, the Fauna and Flora and the Ecosystem through Environmental Education (EE) and sensitization of the population in the hope of modifying their behavior and their attitude towards environmental awareness and protection'*.



The WPE team goes out for EE in schools to raise awareness of young Cameroonians about Environmental issues

Instead of us wasting valuable time and energy to fight against Environmental Degradation, we should use this same time and energy to promote Environmental Conservation!!!



Volunteers of WPE hand in hand with BSNC

Four years of existence in Cameroon, W.P.E. has already gone further in networking and initiating teachers of environmental education and sensitization through its diverse workshops and projects. This process has so far touched the system of environmental awareness in kids in many schools around Cameroon and is still planning to go further to attend to other objectives in the difficult process of the protection of the remaining space for biodiversity, the remaining wild life habitat and the endangered wild life species.

The Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Wild Planet Eco – Project to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. This would increase the mutual benefits of both parties. WPE would also enjoy the privilege of actively participating in BWC's 'Together for a Better World' International Summer Work Camp each year and contribute articles for BWC's quarterly newsletter called BetterNews. They will both also have the opportunity to carry out certain projects together to make the world a 'Better Place' for all humanity.



If children are well educated such that they are aware of Environmental Conservation, then we are sure we have a secure future for sustainable environment

WILD PLANET ECO-PROJECT

United we stand divided we fall

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REGENERATION OF THE NDANIFOR COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Better World Cameroon's (BWC) Ndanifor Community Garden Project is a project which began in 1996 with Joshua Konkankoh as the founder. It served the public as a quiet place where people could get information from its resource centre and serenity in the small garden park to be with nature. It was also used for recreation and learning purposes by welcoming students and pupils for field trips. The public equally enjoyed fresh organic dishes and fruits from its then Royal Gardens Restaurant.



Prepared land for gardening (above), flooded land due to poor drainage (below)



Some visitors to the Ndanifor Community Garden enjoying the outlook of the organic garden



A field trip by the BWC – Mini work camp team to the Mendong Mountain to get an appraisal of nature uninterrupted by man



A completely regenerated Ndanifor Community Garden will have much to offer in terms of natural ecosystems for plants and animals and a learning and leisure place for people

In 2006 as urbanization intensified and the devastating effects of climate change set in, the story changed. The garden was flooded and everything destroyed. It was like a shattered dream. Things have not been easy for BWC as it lost its major source of income generation. Instead of letting our problems become our stumbling blocks, we used them as stepping stones to achieve our goals by reaching out and networking more. Through international collaboration, we are regenerating the Ndanifor Community Garden, building flood defenses, building an eco-lodge and starting up a Permaculture demonstration site which will serve as a source of fresh veggies and spices for our Open World Café

The occasion of the BWC 'Together for a Better World' International Summer Work Camp which will be organized by the Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC) this August will be used as a strong force in the regeneration of this garden. This summer camp will be a forum for people all around the world to give a helping hand to and learn much from BWC by actively participating in it either physically or morally.

I want to use this forum to make a clarion call to the Cameroonian youth to use this opportunity as an eye opener to cross-cultural development and international solidarity. We hope that the eco-lodge will in the future lead to an eco-village which will be used to host events like IPDCs, international work camps, researchers and tourists.

Remember, it is better to go out for nothing than to stay in for nothing!

We count on you!!!

The troubles of life are not meant to make us bitter but better

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GOING GREEN IN SCHOOLS

Through a range of pupils / students from different specializations, W.P.E. as well as BSNC, has succeeded in building a union of devoted and ambitious young Cameroonians and foreign experts to foster its objectives of a safer building a safer environment. With these talents, W.P.E. & BWC have put in place specialized branches such as the Environmental Education department, made up of a network of students and teachers, the Hygiene and Sanitation department that proposes and work together with local councils for clean-up campaigns, the Wild Life Protection department that wage anti-Bush meat campaigns, and the department of Art and Theatre that often design and carry forward environmental messages.



Attentive Primary school Children's Environment Club listens with keen interest to the Hygiene and Sanitation lessons. The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Educate them properly and sustain the future.

WILD PLANET ECO-PROJECT



EE through puppet presentation to give the children a clearer understanding of the interaction of the various entities in the Environment



A healthy environment means a sustainable living. Keep your surroundings clean and we shall together combat Malaria and Cholera

You can discover more about W.P.E. on their website
www.wolfgangwpe.wordpress.com Contact: wolfgangwpe@gmail.com

" ACTION WHILE OTHERS STILL WAIT "