

VISION IN ACTION TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

The international summer workcamp 2011 was not only a memorable one, but was also of innovation and creativity as it was a platform for both youths and adults to jointly share ideas and put their heads together in an effort to come up with solutions to our everyday camp life problems. This was very helpful to all workcamp participants as the expertise of the adults coupled with the clairvoyance of the youths both helped not only to unite but to aid in the assimilation of the numerous cultural diversities (backgrounds) present at the camp. This was the reason that the two volunteers from France, Marie and Nolwenn, were rather very happy and willing to share with us their personal experiences as concerned their work and social life.



This mixture ended up being an exquisite and explosive performance as it had a great deal of appeal from all onlookers present at the camp who all ended up very eager to learn not only the hip-hop part (which was seemingly easier), but also the belly dance part which most considered very difficult, but also highly interesting as it entailed both athletic moves but also exotic dance moves.

Nolwenn on her part happens to be a Green space/zone designer (paysagiste). This simply means that she designs parks, gardens and other green areas for both public and personal interest. To this effect her presence at the BWC international summer work camp was no coincidence as she happily held Better World Cameroon design a few projects which were highly welcomed by all.

Marie who happens to be a belly dance teacher gracefully worked hand in hand with other participants to blend a variety of distinct dance styles. On one hand, the Egyptian belly dance (in the English appellation of it), and 'danse orientale' (in its French appellation) was handled by Marie and on the other hand we had hip-hop, pinguis and coupé décale was taken care of by Malcolm.



a) International cuisine – preparing Korean Rice Rolls ('Kimbap')

b) Mixed cultural dance presentation on workcamp Open Day

c) Visit to CRADIF NGO in Mbalmayo

In conclusion I can say that the international summer camp 2011 was a huge success, as it was blessed with the presence of a whole lot of important personalities and well-wishers who came to participate in the events of the camp. Nonetheless, the most important in the end were the parting tears in the eyes of all and the hearts of everyone yearning for the next summer camp when we shall all meet again!

KOH Herman

A new vision for the Cameroonian Youth is cross-cultural education to bridge the barrier between the Developed North and the Developing South

BETTERNEWS

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

Dear friends,

A holiday such as this offers various opportunities among which are holiday jobs and capacity building in various fields. Let's take the challenge and do things that will benefit us in terms of capacity building and income generation. Whatever we do this holiday demands that we think well before acting.



Remember the saying « more haste, less speed » so let's concentrate on what we need now to be able to enjoy life later to the fullest. Remember tomorrow has a place for those who demand more of themselves today.

Be good!

Sonita MBAH

If we do not have control over our choice of actions then we will not have control over the consequences of our actions. For this reason digest your focus on immorality completely. In this era of information technology, most of us have been exposed to new dimensions of sex and go for them without considering the health implications involved and eventual death. We live only once and we all have the obligation of jealously guarding our lives to enable us become the great person we desire to be. If we hurry over life today, we may end up not enjoying it at the right time.



BETTERNEWS

BSNC – BWC EVENTS MANAGEMENT AGENCY: OVER 50 YOUNG PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER ON TO THE BETTER WORLD ECOLOGICAL LITERACY CENTER

Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC) is a youth mobilization and sensitization student’s movement under the umbrella of Better World Cameroon (BWC) NGO that aims to mobilize a global climate movement united by a common call to food sovereignty and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in Cameroon. Our role in BWC is to ensure that young people around the world create bold initiatives as innovative solutions to the climate food crisis. To achieve our objectives, we organize the “Together for a Better World” International Summer Workcamp in association with NICE Japan, Solidarités Jeunesses France, Volunteer Action for Peace UK and BWC.



Path finder for decent work for women through science, indigenous knowledge and Technology



Meeting the MDGs in Cameroon

Mission of new VSO volunteer to BSNC

Determine vision of BSNC based on Climate Change Actions campaign for food sovereignty and food security

Outline steps that will help us realize our vision

Project presentation and fund raising

Our challenges:

Research into indigenous knowledge and ethics values

What contribution can BSNC bring to WWF?

More inclusiveness and youth education effectiveness

Prognostic management structure for youth education, culture and development

Involvement in implementation of WWF Environmental Education programmes

Access of sustainability and conservation information make available to our youth networks through our Open World Café



The journey of a thousand miles begins with a vision



Joshua KONKANKOH

BETTERNEWS

REPORT ON BWC DIRECTOR AND VSO VOLUNTEER MEETING WITH NWADO AND CWF IN BAMENDA



The North West Association of Development Organisations (NWADO) in partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation invited members in July to participate in a Discussion Forum, leading to the launch of a publication titled, *Governance in the Commonwealth: current debate*. The theme of the Forum was “Governance in Africa- past, present, and future.” The forum was an opportunity for NGO representatives to share experiences and deepen understanding on issues regarding youth, governance, democracy and civil society in Cameroon. Seth Lartey, the Capacity Development Program Manager of Common Wealth Foundation (CWF), based in London, England, was here to find out what organizations are doing, what the main issues are, and how they can be addressed in a more collaborative way. After compiling information about the common issues throughout different countries, he will share best strategies for NGOs. CWF will develop publications on specific issues and put social leaders in different countries in touch with each other, to be a part of an inter-country network. Seth wanted to know what we’re doing to engage young people, what we are doing to promote gender equality, and what our challenges are. Although specific needs vary by region, capacity building is a priority for all five common wealth regions (Asia, Africa, Europe, Caribbean, and Pacific- top priority is Pacific). Needs are identified from the ground through site visits, experiential learning, and discussions. NGOs are able to download modules from CWF’s website for free (i.e. accountability guidelines).

Seth’s direct and thought provoking questions prompted engaging conversations and ideas. Some of his questions were “What are the gaps?” and “What needs to be done?”

One full day was dedicated to field visits in Bafut; we visited the Bafut council, where one of the four deputy mayors is a female and Joshua is Communications & Public Relations Officer. Members of Democracy & Empowerment of Women (DEW) Project explained their main objective is to have women participate and facilitate on all levels of development. We also met displaced orphan children and vulnerable women in the Agyati Quarter Rural, currently assisted by Intervention & Sanitation Common Initiative Group (RISCIG). We then made our way to the Mforya Quarter and visited the people of NOWEFOR (North West Farmers Organization) where testimonies were given by several people on how they’ve been given livestock, enabling them to pay for bills and their children’s education. Our last visit of the day was hosted by Community Development & Epilepsy Foundation (CODEF) in the Njimbee Quarter. People with epilepsy are stigmatized and given false treatment, even burned in the fire. Nsom Kenneth Ninying, coordinator of CODEF, plans on publishing an information booklet, “Voices of Epilepsy,” and distributing it on a mass basis to inform people about the basic facts on epilepsy.

Seth emphasized the importance of knowing who does what and sharing in a structured way. He proposed having thematic/brown bag lunch discussions to learn and share on a regular basis within NGOs and among NGOs (already existing are “First Friday Forums” & “Monday Coffee”). Discussions were lively- people expressed their ideas with clarity and conviction. It is this spirit which inspires action and sustains momentum.

Hye Mi AHN
Organizational Development Advisor
Better World Cameroon

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MY INTERNATIONAL SUMMER WORKCAMP!

Being a participant of the international summer work camp which took place between August 1st and August 21st was not only a wonderful experience but also an unforgettable event. I think the camp which had as aim of making this holiday a useful one for youths of both Cameroon and other nationalities achieved great success. This is because the camp was able to unite youths of various nationalities. Through the camp, I for example got to meet a lot of exciting people from different countries with different cultures quite different from mine. Though the camp had as aim of making the holidays a useful one, this idea was spiced up with many other interesting activities.



I got to meet Marie Acard who was easy going and we all caught a lot of fun as she taught us belly dance, something I had never thought of learning. What was more interesting was and exciting was the day of international cuisine during which various kinds of dishes were prepared following the different cultures. I call this exciting because it is wonderful when you get to experience a new thing in life, it is quite fascinating. All these activities only posed as an additional spice to the camp as it is often said "learning without playing makes Jack a dull boy".



I am glad I was able to take part in the "WASH" as I was able to improve on the sanitary of the environment through this. I have achieved many things during this camp because I have learned to be more open and to interact better with people. I also achieved fame, reasons being that I was shown over the Cameroon television on three different occasions with the most important being on Monday Show during a drama which I took part in titled **WHY CHANGE CHANGED.**



I am therefore glad I was part of this camp because I felt different as I got to learn a lot which went a long way to add moisture to my personality. What makes this camp special from others is that we were all able to merge the various cultures as one with no difficulty during this 21 memorable days and made something positive out of it which profited us all. I therefore invite everyone to part in the next summer camp come August 2012 and make your holidays unforgettable as many surprises await you.



KOH Crystel

**TOGETHER WE CAN
BUILD A WORLD OF
OUR DREAM!**

BETTERNEWS

DEVELOPING BETTER WORLD'S ENGAGEMENT IN GLOBAL POVERTY ERADICATION

Better World Cameroon (BWC) Business and Partnerships Director Joshua KONKANKOH took part in the Development Education Summer School DESS 2011 in Helsinki Finland, an occasion that prompted the concerted efforts of the organizational Development process in BWC to recognize strengths, identify gaps and set priorities for the future of the Ecological Literacy Centre in Yaoundé.

BWC International Solidarity has shifted significantly since the flood disaster in 2006. 5 years of ground work in net working have been laid by the Ndanifor Permaculture Eco Village initiative to build and make the case for Development Education globally:



- Raising awareness of the spirit of Ndanifor Practices.
- Establishing strong local and global presence
- Learning how social enterprise and youth entrepreneurship can effectively collaborate.
- Creation of issues platform on climate, water, gender and children education.

BWC's action in building relations with Development Europeans. Engagement for the Eradication of Global poverty (DEEEP) in Helsinki is a quantum leap in international solidarity.

DEEEP is a programme initiated by the Development Education Forum of CONCORD (European NGO confederation for Relief and Development).

DESS2011 was a weeklong exchange and learning event for representatives of NGOs from the EU and Economically Less Developed Countries (ELDCs – the so called south). Konkankoh took part in Non Formal Youth Education work group and his capacity was build on improving information exchange Advocacy and strengthen cooperation partnerships.



Joshua KONKANKOH

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COMING SOON



- ✚ E-classroom in schools
- ✚ Environmental Education in schools
- ✚ Operation 10,000 Trees Project
- ✚ Permaculture Demo site
- ✚ Eco village
- ✚ Theater for Development
- ✚ August 2012 International Summer Workcamp



Come join us in August 2012 in Novelty Fashion Parade!

BETTERNEWS

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