

# BETTERNEWS

Nov. & Dec. 2012 Edition



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## EDITORIAL

### BRINGING YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR TRAINING AND EMPLOYABILITY

Together for a Better World International Workcamp was designed in March, 2011 by Better World Cameroon (BWC) with assistance from youth exchange experts from NICE Japan and Solidarite Jeunesse France to act as a support project for youth development in Cameroon to be implemented in collaboration with international partners. The Cameroon Camp therefore serves as an entrepreneurship and capacity building programme for the empowerment of youth and women in city slums and villages in the regions in Cameroon to become actively involved in sustainable agriculture and the global climate change agenda. In its third edition, it has become a youth development platform for sharing knowledge to sustain food systems in rural areas through Permaculture (permanent agriculture) practice, supporting children education through ICTs and improving urban planning in city slum communities. The Camp raises awareness among citizens of the developed countries through persuasive communication to play an important role in challenging the negative myth about sustainable development in sub Saharan Africa;

We are working closely with the Civil Society Desk of the Commonwealth Department in the Ministry of External Relations, within the context of Cameroon One World Linking Association (COWLA), in order to link young social entrepreneurs and civil society organizations in Cameroon with their peers worldwide for mutual understanding and global citizenship. Through the Ministry, the Camp is strongly advocating government for the setting up of a regional **Building Understanding through International Links for Development (BUILD)**, UK Consortium of sustainable development Charities in Cameroon, in order to facilitate development education and the linking of schools and communities. Our mission is to reconnect young people to the natural world, engage local communities through e-learning and to bridge the wisdom in our indigenous knowledge with modern science of today so that the diversity of life in Cameroon can flourish for future generations and the global environment.

The focus of this year's Camp is on Juan Cristaldo Urban Design Architect of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design on an on-site field study of the Better World Ecological Literacy education facility. His mission is to build the capacity of the Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC) organizers of the "Together for a Better World" International Summer Workcamp, to build an eco-lodge that will host future camps and design Better Eco Villages in Yaoundé and Bamenda. Most of the brain storming sessions aim at bringing the young people's attention to contemporary issues and empowering them to take action in advancing the interests of the socially excluded and the oppressed who are the vast majority of the poor.

Our dream is that BWC's Non Formal Education youth development strategy reaches remote areas, helping special needs children, women, students and unemployed graduates to constitute a strong network of change makers in their communities.

KONKANKOH JOSHUA

## YAOUNDE III COUNCIL GREENING THE CITY OF YAOUNDE

Following the tree planting campaign launched by the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna, Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, to green the city and mitigate climate change, Yaoundé III Council, through Better World Cameroon (BWC) is championing the process. This project targeted 4,000 trees in 3 years and in the first phase carried out by BWC, over 1,500 trees have been nurse and ready for distribution. In November 2012, a few institutions which expressed interest in having trees have had their share. The first to be visited was our neighbor, Lycée de Nsam Efulan. The trees planted included the medicinal plant *Moringa oleifera* (40), cypress (20), and eucalyptus (20)



*Variety of trees donated to Lycée de Nsam Efulan*



*The Principal (a) and teacher (b) setting the pace for the tree planting in the school campus*



*Students taught the importance of trees and encouraged to participate in the tree planting exercise*

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At the Advance School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM), the whole administration was so impressed and was represented by the director and the assistant sub directors. Here, in addition to 30 cypresses and 50 Moringa, they had 20 fruit trees.



*Projects Manager of BWC, Sampson Nuvaga presenting trees to the ENAM Administration*



*Sampson Nuvaga assisting ENAM Assistant Director to plant the first tree (Moringa)*



*ENAM staff and administrators continue the tree planting while the Director explains to the press the importance of such projects*



**ATABE SENGE LAURA**

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## QUEENS FOR PEACE NATIONAL FORUM

The forum took place from the 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at the Conference Centre, Yaoundé. It was an initiative of Women in Alternative Action (WAA) Cameroon, in association with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, to bring women of Cameroon together to talk about the problems they face, and how they can be agents of peace and development in their communities in particular and the nation at large. This forum was the first of its kind and brought together wives or widows of chiefs and fons, princesses and female title holders from the four corners of Cameroon. The theme was: **"From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Building on Positive Cultural Practices for the Empowerment of Women in Cameroon"**

As the Board Chairperson of WAA Cameroon, Mrs. Yaah Gladys Viban said in her welcome speech, *"Peace in itself is an action at work"*, she went ahead to emphasize to the women that they should start being the agents of peace and change in their communities. She ended with the quote *"Peace in our World begins with Peace in our Nation. Peace in our Nation begins with Peace in our Home. Peace in our Home Begins with Peace within us"*.

Also present there were a host of speakers who brought out the importance of women as peace makers. Ntumfor Barrister Nico Halle, in his presentation brought out the importance of putting God first in our lives in order to achieve all other things. He also said violence against one woman is violence against all women.

The Africa Adviser for the organization, Girls Not Brides: Global Partnerships to End Child Marriages, Francoise Moudouthe, gave a brief history about her organization which was formed by Nelson Madela to educate women and girls on their rights and stop child marriages.

Mrs. Rose Bianyo, in her key note speech brought to notice that everyone is responsible for peace, thus, peace can be achieved when we start looking at where the problem originates. So, she ended by giving the quote by UNESCO *"Since wars begin in the minds of men it is in the minds of men that peace must be constructed"*.

At the launching, the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family H.E., Marie Therese Abena Ondo Obama, gave a brief history of her ministry and said what her ministry is doing to combat the practices that seek to hinder the progress of women. She said the main focus now is building capacity of women to take up roles of responsibility in the society. She said they were highly involved in issues to avoid sexual harassment, abolish Female Genital Mutilation, early marriages, widowhood rites, gender based violence among many other discriminations against women. She ended up with the saying *"Educate a woman, educate a nation"*.

During the forum, the Fon of Chomba, Fon Fobuzie Martin Asanji, was given an award as the Champion of Women's Empowerment in Cameroon. He said to achieve this, he involved women in decision making in his community and has also given them the opportunity to form a women's council to deliberate on issues concerning them.

The second part of the forum was mainly methods of advocacy and community mobilization. This was presented by Mrs. Lima and Mrs. Viban. They emphasized the importance of using the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time bound) and SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats – always turn threats to opportunities) Analysis on writing and applying for

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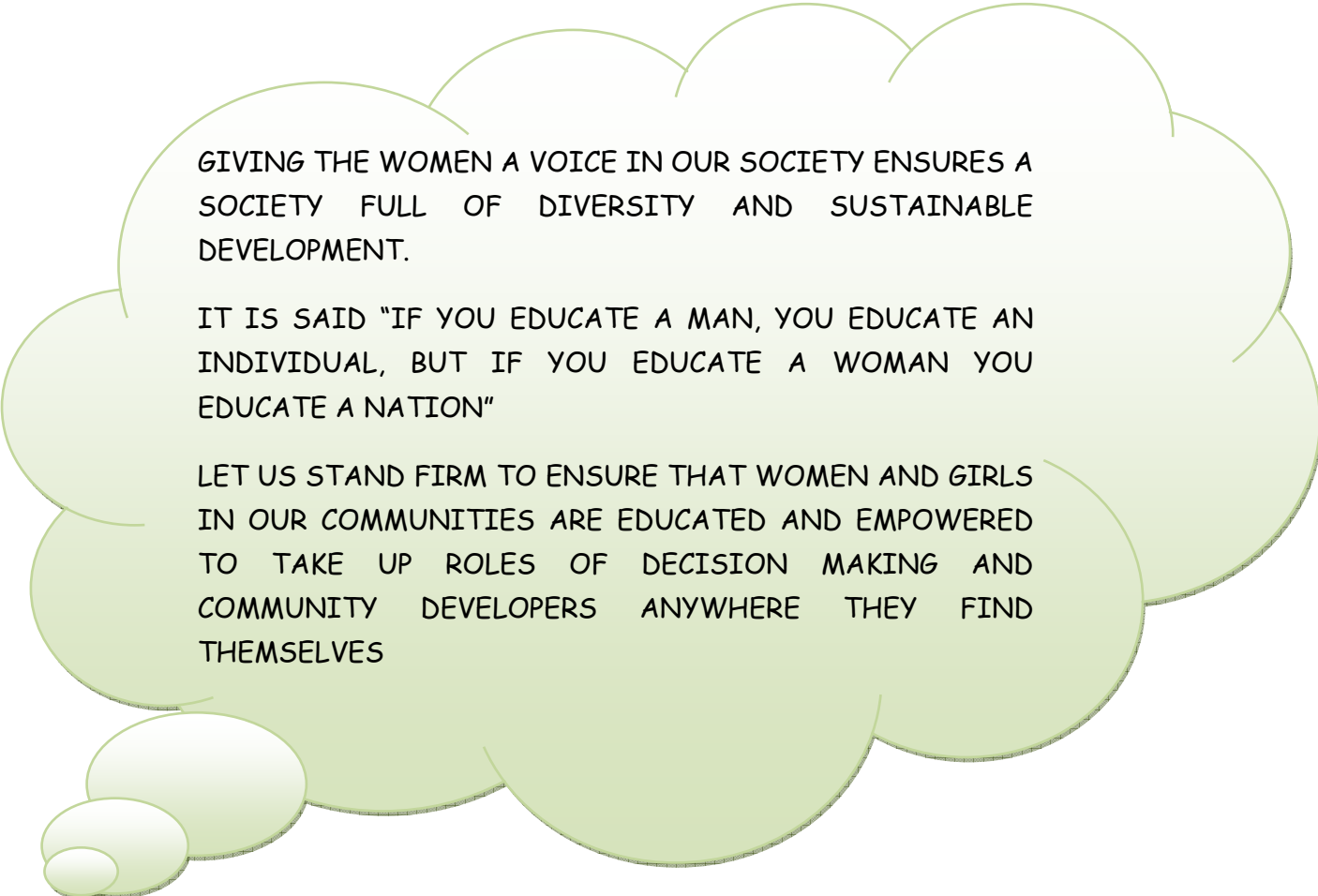
funding for projects. Mrs. Viban ended the session with the following quotes: *“There is power in humility”*; *“You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar”*; *“Losers live in the past, winners learn from the past, and enjoy living in the future”*; *“Be like a river. The river does not fight obstacles”*

Last but not least was the turn of Honorable Adamu Ndam Njoya who brought out the role of parliamentarians in eliminating violence against women and girls. They are greatly involved here since they make and adopt laws. He ended by say everyone needs to develop a ‘New Social Contract’ that puts human beings in each other’s heart and practice mutual respect.

The forum was also used as an occasion to elect of the national executive made up of President from Littoral Region, Vice President from Grand North Region, Secretary General from South West Region, Assistant Secretary General from the South Region and a Technical Adviser from the Centre Region.

At the end of the forum, the women made a Peace portal with a number of resolutions including working in networks, always creating a friendly atmosphere, learning needs of their communities before venturing in any project, proper diagnosis of the problem, forgiveness, have integrity and always match actions with words. They were also called upon to be good examples in their communities in obedience, humility and love.

**ATABE SENGE LAURA**



GIVING THE WOMEN A VOICE IN OUR SOCIETY ENSURES A SOCIETY FULL OF DIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS SAID “IF YOU EDUCATE A MAN, YOU EDUCATE AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT IF YOU EDUCATE A WOMAN YOU EDUCATE A NATION”

LET US STAND FIRM TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS IN OUR COMMUNITIES ARE EDUCATED AND EMPOWERED TO TAKE UP ROLES OF DECISION MAKING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS ANYWHERE THEY FIND THEMSELVES

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## YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE: BETTER WORLD CAMEROON'S MESSAGE TO THE YOUTHS

Governance is seen by youths as a domain for politicians. As leaders of tomorrow, youths are called upon to participate in governance policy. The only way for them to do this is to understand that ***“In order to get to the top, you must start from the bottom”*** and be able to communicate this message to other youths by example. There is equally need for us to carry out training in our various communities to build up capacities.

As an entity preoccupied with the situation of the youths, Better World Cameroon (BWC) calls on the global youth to make a difference in their lives by engaging in voluntary services and events that will build their capacity and to think out of the box. Our youth club, Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC) and 2013 International Summer Workcamp are a pace setter towards achieving these goals. These domains will groom you towards being a nature lover and youth entrepreneur.

In order for the youths to effectively solicit for themselves, they need to understand the modules of a good governance plan:

**Social Plan:** - We help ourselves by helping others

- Show yourself as you are
- Advocate for government to reduce prices for youths

**Economic Plan:** - Youths are entrepreneurs, that is, they do not wait for the government but try on their own (self employment) in order to achieve their goals.

**Academic Plan:** - Practice the right actions for others to emulate

**Infrastructural Plan:** - Denounce those who cheat.

**Political Plan:** - Be exemplary, first in our communities, NGOs, before hoping to talk to the government.

- Get ourselves to understand the nation's vision, get involved in every legal aspect in order that we can participate in the parliament and every other government post.

**Functional Plan:** - Competence and equilibrium between men and women

**Administrative Plan:** - Do not be a leader who does everything, we must assign people different roles to perform.

This, therefore, will entail that we know our rights and duties and pass on from a passive corruptor to an active corruptor. BWC sees itself in youth organs and has the key to open the door. Join us in our 4000 Tree Campaign with the Yaoundé III Council to green the city of Yaoundé and better our communities through waste management strategies for a Better World.

**SONITA MBAH**

## UPDATES FROM BETTER WORLD CAMEROON, BAMENDA

### Visit to the Ndanifor Permaculture Eco-village site in Bafut



Climate Change Scientist Ross Hunter and Human Rights and Gender Expert Caroline Daly, both from the Welsh Assembly visited the Ndanifor Permaculture Eco-village site in company of some Board members on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012, to see what input they can make to its designing and construction in line with their assignments to North West Association of Development Organizations NWADO which Better World is a member.



### New VSO Volunteer for Better World Bamenda Pays a Familiarization visit

A new VSO volunteer Patty Stuchbury (Case load manager) assigned to BWC made her first familiarization visit to the organization on the 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2012 in the office at NWADO. The director and regional secretary received her. They presented to her the thematic areas of the organization (education, environment, agriculture) and the prospective projects (NDANIFOR Permaculture Eco-village, God is Great Orphanage and “Together for Better World” International Summer WorkCamp; programs that the organization is working on and what role VSO can play. They discussed national/international networks to which BWC belong and potential funders. Patty was very impressed with the scope of work that BWC has done so far and promised to offer technical support.

**DOH MARCELINE**

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## MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPIRIT OF NDANIFOR

I was fascinated by this youth development concept when I first came across it over the internet. It spoke meaning into my African soul, kindling my interest to join Better World Bamenda (BWB). Here I understand that the Spirit of Ndanifor in general is about the integration of traditional values of the respect of land and creating small businesses for youth/women based on combining culture, agriculture and science. The more I know about the Spirit, the more I feel reconnected to my roots and feel confident in myself.

I was recruited as a volunteer in November 2012 and I have quickly become an advocate and promoter. I am motivated to speak about Ndanifor to my friends and I am calling on all Cameroonian youths through this medium to be interested in understanding its relevance to today's world where we youths have become an endangered species. The concept is all the more interesting for Cameroon because there are many graduates and undergraduates who don't know that their hands and available land can create employment. Mastering the Spirit of Ndanifor, has put me in the position to use all my effort to educate myself spiritually and make other youths see the need to be involved in ecological agriculture, global citizenship and the need to actively participate in transforming communities.

I look forward to making an interesting career in marketing Ndanifor from Bamenda.

**HONOURINE TEBI** (Project Assistant) BWB

## GEN AFRICA IS BORN



From December 16th to 19th, 55 representatives from all regions in Africa met in Sekem/Egypt to launch Global Eco Villages Network Africa, (GEN Africa) to formulate a common vision and mission statement, to find a proper Organizational structure and to elect a council. It was four days of intensive sharing about the challenges faced by the different African regions, and the possible solutions - a highly effective work time - always accompanied by music and celebration. Better World Cameroon on the strength of its Ndanifor Permaculture Eco village in Bafut was represented by its Business and Partnerships Director Konkankoh Joshua. He participated in the signing of the Birth Certificate of GEN Africa and was given Power of Attorney by GEN International and Gen Europe to set up GEN Cameroon.

**KONKANKOH JOSHUA**

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## THE CRY OF MOTHER EARTH

- OH! HUMANKIND, WHY DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH?
- REMEMBER, ONCE YOU'VE BEEN CREATED OUT OF ME!
- YOU LIVE ON ME!
- BUT YOU HATE ME SO MUCH!
- ALL YOU EAT COMES FROM ME
- ALL YOU WEAR COMES FROM ME, BUT YOU HATE ME SOMUCH!
- YOUR EVERYTHING EMANATES FROM ME, BUT YU HATE ME SO MUCH!
- REMEMBER ONCE AGAIN, YOU OWE ME YOUR EXISTENCE,
- AND WHEN YOU DIE YOU WILL BE BURRIED IN ME!
- BUT YOU HATE ME SO MUCH!
- YOU DIG ME FOR GOLD, IRON, BAUXITE, PETROL BUT YOU HATE ME SO MUCH,
- YOU NAKED ME BY REMOVING MY COVER FROM MY FACE,
- REPENT IF NOT I WILL SURPRISE YOU VERY SOON, LOVE YOURSELF

*KONKANKOH JOSHUA*

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## **THINKING AHEAD: EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY NDANIFOR PERSPECTIVES**

BWB Lunched Ndanifor Permaculture Vocational Education Programme amongst its members on 1st Jan, 2013. The Better World Bamenda BWB Board resolved not to follow present government policies in defining curriculum for Ndanifor education and training programmes, “we take responsibility onto ourselves” was our final resolution.

This decision was arrived at after we picked and analyzed some practical solutions proposed by Suh Joseph, Inspector of English in the Ministry of Education in Yaoundé (Chair of BWB Board) that are sustainable, employable and can solve immediate problems into opportunities for graduates in Cameroon.

Our Ndanifor Vocational Education Programme NVEP’s essential objective therefore is to open the minds of young Cameroonians to the necessity of education for global understanding, respect for nature and corporate social responsibility.

NVEP has five widely recognized current sub themes. These are development education, human rights education, and education for sustainable development, education for peace and conflict prevention and inter-cultural education.

However one that is very special to BWB that we are focusing on for a start is Permaculture and Eco Villages Design as it is a triple winner. It is sustainable, it is a low cost venture, facilitates youth/women empowerment has many aspects of education built in and solves local food sovereignty and food security. For this we have several international partners which include Global Eco Village Network Africa and International Permaculture Convergence.

We are presently looking at other employment/empowerment training programs and solutions already in existence in Cameroon and we have started raising awareness of the importance of citizenship education in the North West region through North West Association of Development Organizations NWADO. Our special thanks go to our VSO case load Manager, Patty Stuchbery who has oriented us on Ndanifor Project for Global Responsibility.

**KONKANKOH JOSHUA**

## **JOINING THE UPRISING OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN BETTER WORLD BAMENDA**

BWB and Peace Corps have discovered the missing link in Cameroon's development endeavors; capacity building in social enterprise and NGO Management.

Two BWB graduate volunteer staff Sonita Mbah and Honourine Tebi are currently undergoing a four month's Business Relations Management Course organized by the National Employment Fund and sponsored by the American government. Subjects include Social Business Development, Institutional Communication, Office Administration, Corporate English, Project Writing, Project Management, Sales and Marketing, Office Automation, e-Business. In addition the Business and Partnerships Director of Better World Cameroon Konkankoh Joshua has been selected to undergo the Business Executives Management Course.

They are preselected by the Board of Better World Bamenda and endorsed by Cameroon Center for Micro Finance Management and Entrepreneurship Development CCEMMED. They are being trained to take up the implementation of the newly registered Ndanifor Permaculture Cooperative Society **BetterCOOP**. BetterCOOP is the legal executing agency of Ndanifor Permaculture Eco Village (Umbrella Cooperative for Maize, Cassava and Vegetable Platforms in the North West Region) It is run in association with the Agricultural Technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in line with the Governments Growth and Strategy Paper 2020 for Capacity building of small and Medium Scale Farmers, Micro Finance, developing marketing channels and franchising.

The new trainees will also be responsible for organizing and ensuring the functioning of the administrative office of Better World Bamenda, form the North West Chapter of Better World's Nature Club, create school gardens and take environmental education and ITC skills into classrooms.

### **Every Change for the Better**

The transition of restructuring (OD Process) with VSO which seemed terrifying in 2009 now seem natural to BWC Team and their Coordinator who made all the sacrifices. The VSO intervention indirectly served as facilitator and lubricant for the relocation and transformation of Ndanifor from Community Garden in Yaoundé to Ndanifor Permaculture Eco Village in Bafut which is now being used to spread the Spirit of Ndanifor in Cameroon and the merits of Permaculture and sustainable development globally.

With much effort, BWB's BetterCoop as an Ecological Education Foundation is drawing the digitally disconnected and poorest communities in the region onto the global sustainability debate.

With the upcoming graduation of its Business Trainees, BWB aims to encourage development organizations in Cameroon and their partners to promote sustainability as the entry point into the post MDGs through Permaculture Eco Villages from where global citizens across the world will share their voice with global leaders.

Our Heartfelt Gratitude goes to Ndanifor Gardens UK Trustees who have whole heartedly supported the relocation process through the payment of monthly Stipends to the Coordinator and Permaculture Trainer.

**KONKANKOH JOSHUA**

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## COMING SOON

- ❖ NGUKT visits Cameroon
- ❖ Summer Workcamp 2013
- ❖ BWC relaunches Operation 4,000 trees project
- ❖ Nature Club makes 2013 a year of new dreamss

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