



Traditional Culture & Future Development

Dolls of the World

Dolls have always been there.

Proof of this is found in the excavations in South America, the Subcontinent, Japan, Italy, Greece, and other sites all over the world. Made out of a number of materials like wood, wax, clay, cloth etc., they were not only a toy but used also as religious symbols and cult items for example as miniaturized images of persons. Even today they are used by many people as fetish. Today, the experts are not sure what was the first purpose of the dolls; as a toy, out of which the cult figure developed or the cult figure which became a toy. Over and above their value as toys with educational value, dolls are realistic documentation of past and present times and therefore important source of our knowledge about the games, life, living and work conditions and economy. They are important cultural carriers. Dr Senta Siller established different projects in Pakistan, Cameroun, Colombia, etc., in which small but long-term progress was made towards development of rural areas, help towards self-sustained development, discouragement of urbanization by way of income generating projects in the rural areas through production of certain types of handicraft items. Dolls are manufactured here lovingly and clothed in traditional dresses and accessories. Fabric design and types of clothing are revived and take an important place in daily life.

Poupées du monde

Les poupées ont toujours existé.

La preuve en est qu'elles ont été découvertes dans des fouilles en Amérique du Sud, dans le Sous-continent, au Japon, en Italie, en Grèce, et sur d'autres sites partout dans le monde. Faites de matériaux très divers tels que le bois, la cire, l'argile, le tissu, etc., elles n'étaient pas seulement un jouet mais étaient aussi utilisées comme des symboles religieux et des objets de cultes : par exemple comme des représentations miniatures de personnes. Encore de nos jours, elles sont utilisées par de nombreuses personnes comme des fétiches. Aujourd'hui, les experts ne sont pas certains de l'usage premier des poupées : un jouet duquel furent développés des objets de cultes ou une figure de culte qui est devenue un jouet. Au-delà de leur signification comme jouet avec une fonction éducative, les poupées sont des documents concrets des époques passées et présentes, et sont donc des sources substantielles de connaissance sur les jeux, la vie, les conditions de travail et de vie et l'économie des temps passés. Ce sont alors d'importants vecteurs culturels. Le Docteur Senta Siller a établi différents projets au Pakistan, au Cameroun, en Colombie, etc., dans lesquels des programmes légers mais à long-terme ont été mis en place pour le développement des zones rurales, durable et autonome, et le découragement de l'urbanisation par des projets permettant de générer des revenus dans les zones rurales, à travers la production de certains types d'objets artisanaux. Les poupées sont ici fabriquées soigneusement et revêtues d'habits et d'accessoires traditionnels. La conception du design et des différents types de vêtements sont renouvelés et prennent désormais une place importante dans la vie quotidienne.

Muñecas del Mundo

Siempre ha habido muñecas.

Esto lo comprueban los hallazgos pertinentes en América del Sur, en el subcontinente, en el Japón, Italia, Grecia y otros sitios de encuentro en el mundo entero. Configurados de materiales muy diversos, tales como madera, cera, arcilla, tela, no sólo han servidos de juguete, sino que con frecuencia han sido utilizados como símbolos de sacrificio y como objetos de culto, en la forma de imagenes humanas miniaturizadas. También hoy en día, diferentes pueblos los siguen usando como fetiche, siendo que de allí ha ido desarrollándose la figura cultural, o bien el juguete desarrollado con base en la figura cultural. Más allá de su importancia como juguetes con valor pedagógico, los muñecos con documentos realistas de los tiempos pasados y también del mundo contemporáneo, y con ello una fuente importante para nuestro saber sobre el juego, la vida, la vivienda, el trabajo y la economía - por lo tanto, son importantes representantes de la cultura! La Dra. Senta Sille ha venido iniciando diferentes proyectos en Pakistán, Camerún, Colombia, entre otros, en los cuales, por medio de la creación de productos artesanales de índole muy especial, se va creando una vía de los pasos pequeños pero sostenibles dentro del desarrollo en las zonas rurales, ayuda para la autoayuda, frenando el éxodo rural por medio de medidas que proveen ingresos para la población campesina, y que contribuyen a la conformación de un segundo pilar para la economía casera. Aquí se van produciendo muñecas con base en trabajos manuales realizados amorosamente con todo el esmero y primor, y son vestidas con trajes originales con sus diferentes accesorios correspondientes. Con ello, las muestras de tela y los tipos de vestimenta son reactivados ocupando de nuevo un lugar importante en la vida cotidiana.

Puppen der Welt

Puppen hat es schon immer gegeben.

Beweise dafuer liefern eindeutige Graeberfunde in Suedamerika, dem Subkontinent, Japan, Italien, Griechenland und andere Fundorte auf der ganzen Welt. Aus vielerlei Materialien wie Holz, Wachs, Ton, Stoff, waren sie nicht nur Spielzeug, sondern wurden oft auch als Opfersymbole und Kultgegenstaende verwendet, u.z. in Form von miniaturisierten Menschenabbildungen. Auch heute noch werden sie bei verschiedenen Voelkern noch als Fetiche benutzt, wodurch sich die Kultfigur entwickelt hat, oder das aus der Kultfigur entwickelte Spielzeug. Ueber die Rolle als Spielzeug mit paedagogischem Stellenwert hinaus sind Puppen realistische Dokumente der vergangenen und aktuellen Zeit und somit eine wichtige Quelle fuer unser Wissen ueber das Spielen, Leben, Wohnen, Arbeiten und Wirtschaften,- sie sind somit wichtiger Kulturtraeger! Dr Senta Siller begruendete verschiedene Projekte in Pakistan, Kamerun, Kolumbien, u.a., in denen durch die Anfertigung von kunsthandwerklichen Produkten der ganz besonderen Art, ein Weg der kleinen, aber nachhaltigen Schritte in der Entwicklung im laendlichen Raum, Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe, die Eindammung der Landflucht durch einkommenschaffende Massnahmen fuer die Landbevoelkerung, als zweites Standbein geschaffen wird. Puppen werden hier in liebevoller Handarbeit hergestellt und in originalen Trachten mit verschiedenen Accessoires bekleidet. Stoffmuster und Arten des Kleides finden dadurch eine Wiederbelebung und einen wichtigen Platz im Alltag.

Traditional Culture & Future Development

Edited by Aaron Kaah Yancho



**A Self-Help Project
Bamenda, North-West Region of the Republic of Cameroon
2001-2011**



Aaron Kaah Yancho, educated in Cameroon / University Buea in Mass. Communication, received an award in Social Development for his work in The Netherlands; he is a journalist and writer of various articles. Also, he is a well known personality for his works in Radio & TV, and is one of the founders from Internet-Radio www.radio-tv-ruc.com.

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Centre for Appropriate Technology (NGO)

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Foreword

Five Years of CAT in Practice

by His Excellency the Governor of the North West Province Koumpa Isa

I am Delighted and honored because this action comes as a major contribution in search of a permanent and durable solution to the present energy-technology dilemma in our country. Coming on the heels of the creation of the National Energy Action Plan for poverty reduction in Cameroon by H.E. The Head of State. It should be welcome and saluted for it would bring energy particularly to the rural areas that don't have access to any form of commercial energy. Since renewable energy technology uses free natural energy resources, it therefore constitutes a major component in the fight against unemployment, poverty and equally protects our environment, thereby helping in the attainment of the millennium development goals.

This is why I will seize this opportunity to formally thank and appreciate CAT for pioneering this initiative in the North West Province and I will urge them to expand to some parts of Cameroon, particularly to the Northern part where there is abundant sun shine, the creation of a centre which has been offering consultancy, capacity building and technical services in the domain of sustainable energies. I am hereby assuring CAT of the total support of the North West Administration in their effort to improve the living standards of Cameroonians. CAT achievements and results for the past five years have been very worthwhile. Especially by giving women the opportunity to improve their livelihood through handicraft works. I would particularly encourage other women folk to take up the challenge of empowering themselves financially with the ethnic dolls production which is unique.

Beyond the women, and since energy problems are pertinent these days in Cameroon, I invite every one to put hands on deck and seek sustainable solutions to our energy problems of today and tomorrow. Let's all combat the various obstacles like ignorance and traditional barriers that hinders the appropriate use and application of renewable energy technology.

My hope and aspiration is that this initiative should contribute in making sustainable energy affordable to all Cameroonians. Putting together all what I have learnt and known about CAT-Cameroon, I would say: It is a success story of her five years old and it depicts a comprehensive activity report since creation. CAT has truly demonstrated practically what I will term Technologies for the unserved/underserved and to the best of my knowledge, CAT has fulfilled all requirements to be listed amongst the few grassroots NGO that are recognised by the State of Cameroon.

Foreword by the Regional Delegate of Energy and Water Resources,

North West Region of the Republic of Cameroon

One is frequently asked; why do indigenous Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) die soon after birth? No life enough to stand the taste of time. The reason lies in one answer; Some NGOs are created with primary aim of generating income without tax. These notwithstanding, many die soon when they do not get funding or subvention to sustain the initiators and the NGO. Even some who have got supports, lack of managerial and accountability is still one reason to kill an NGO including lost of the NGO's goal.

It beats my imagination how this indigenous initiative has sealed through all hurdles for ten years to arrive here. It takes hard work, perseverance, sacrifice and endurance to stay afloat. Their achievements in renewable energy researches are many. Awards both at local and National level are numerous, but I still wonder what could be the driving force of CAT and the young men behind it? It is indeed a quest to serve humanity by improving, touching and influencing lives.

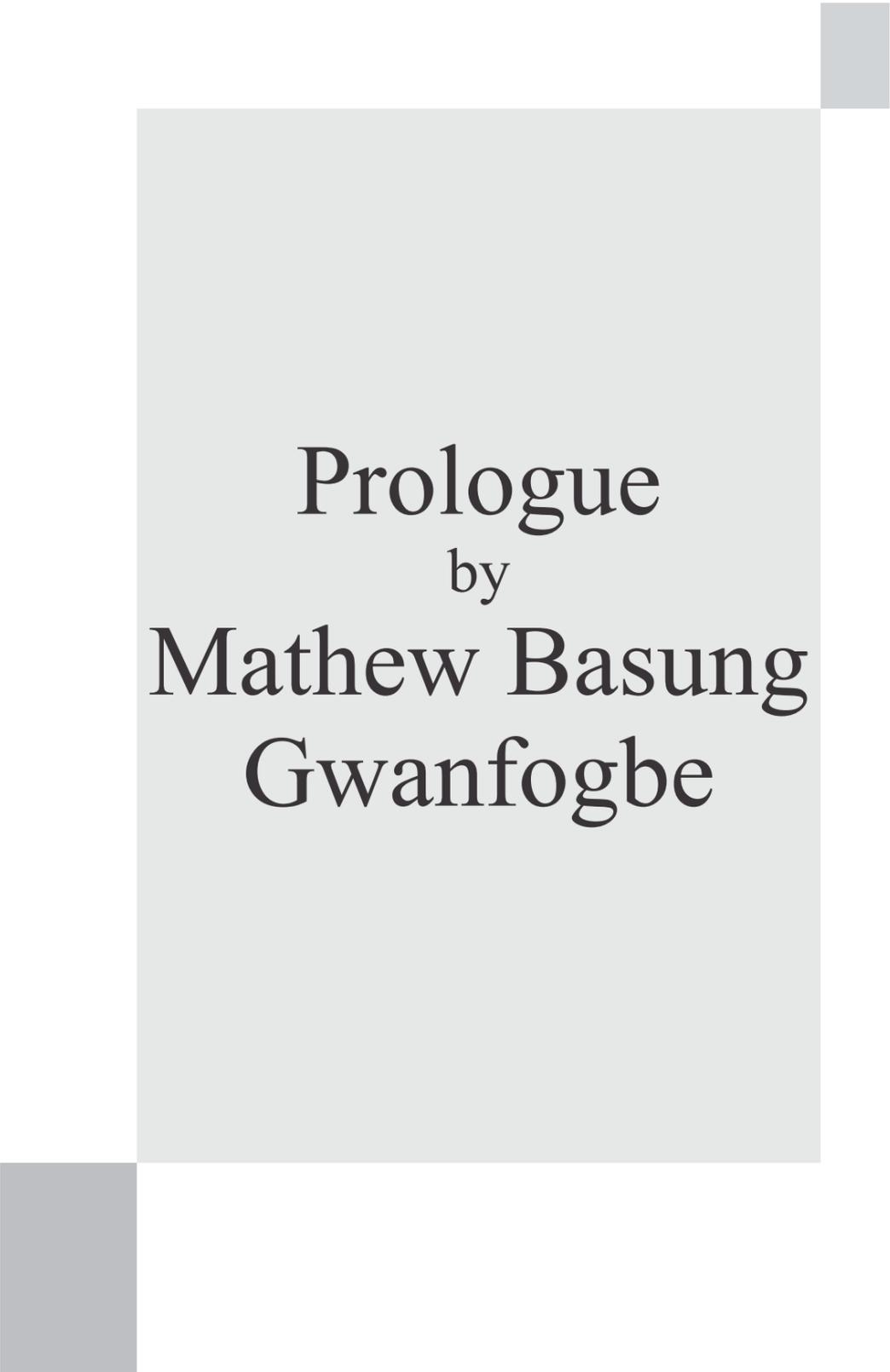
Cultural barriers still abound the use and application of CAT's appropriate technologies. Our efforts are to assist in breaking cultural barriers in the use and application of low cost energy systems and to involve CAT as much as possible in Government's efforts to energize Rural Cameroon.

I am hereby pledging the total support of the North West Regional Delegation for Water and Energy to CAT. CAT achievements and results for the past nine years have been very worthwhile. Especially by giving women the opportunity to improve their lively hood through handicraft works.

I would particularly encourage other women folk to take up the challenge of empowering themselves financially with the ethnic dolls production which is unique.

We of the administration are keeping a close watch over her and still anxious to see more innovations from their researches. We will like to recommend this initiative for Government's subventions.

The Regional Delegate,
Energy and Water Resources
N.W.R. Cameroon.



Prologue
by
Mathew Basung
Gwanfogbe

Educational Development in Cameroon

Education in contemporary Cameroon like in most African countries is marked by confusion and a wide range of problems and difficulties inherent in the chequered history of Cameroon and in the pattern of the educational development in the country. Cameroon education consists of two distinct systems inherited from colonial regimes which in their unreformed state are indisputably unsuitable for modern Cameroon. These two systems are juxtaposed with the pre-colonial African education system and the Islamic education system that existed before the introduction of Western education.

Western education was introduced in 1844 by the British Baptist Missionary Society and encouraged by successive colonial regimes (the German regime from 1884 to 1916, the British and French regimes from 1916 to 1961). Since independence and reunification in 1961, the failure to restructure education to reflect common national values and respond to the development needs of the nation has been identified by analysts with the colonial origins. Yet the different systems (Missionary, traditional, Islamic and colonial) had varying impacts and the inter-relationships between each system and Cameroonians differed. In the book *Changing Regimes and Educational Development in Cameroon* the impact of the respective education systems and changing regimes on developments in education I have written. The role and motives of colonial regimes, Missions and Cameroonians are examined to assess the impact of the different motives and inter-relationships on post-colonial attitudes to education. It is hoped that policy makers and educational administrators will realize that Cameroon educational problems have come long way and cannot be solved superficially but through indepth considerations of the past and present political, economic and social conditions.

The central argument is that reform impasse in Cameroon education like in most African countries cannot be explained by a single factor without taking into consideration the past. It is for that reason that an overview of the pre-colonial traditional education system and the Islamic educational system that was introduced in parts of the country long before Western education has been taken into consideration. The respective colonial and Mission education systems which outcomes dominate current educational practices and the reactions of Cameroonians are examined chronologically from a historical perspective using mostly primary sources.

It was found that the Germans and the British colonial regimes were liberal to Missions as against a stronger French colonial control. The Germans' desire for a protestant Mission and the British indirect rule that left education to Christian missions and Native Authorities added to British tolerance to foreign Missionary societies, to establish a distinct system from that of the French. Besides, Cameroonians interest in and attitudes towards western education also influenced the pattern of educational development. Finally, the constraints of global economic and political forces in the postcolonial era have reinforced the deadlock on institutional reforms. In summary therefore, the impact of the respective educational legacies and the perceptions and reactions of Cameroonians at different stages of educational growth are found to have combined with the socio-economic and political developments since independence to explain the stalemate in rendering education responsive to the needs

of Cameroon.

To attain educational change, we recommend the importance of creating awareness among teachers and parents and the wider public on the need for reform. It also suggests that further research be conducted on pre-colonial attitudes to education and on Cameroon cultures to identify indigenous educational ideas with relevance to modern education as well as those traditional values that can enrich the educational system and eventually generate common national and international interests.

PART-1
CAT
by
Njini Victor
Ndu

An Introduction

OVERVIEW

The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT Cameroon) is the reference institution in Cameroon with long-term experience in the field of alternative efficient energy and renewable energies. CAT was created in June 2001 by a group of unemployed university graduates and registered in July 2002 as an NGO to provide technical/consultancy services in the field of appropriate technology and sustainable development.

As a result of the growing need for technical and commercial services in the domain of renewable energies, CAT created and registered a technical and commercial unit (CC Technologies Group) as an enterprise in January 2004 in partnership with an expert from Austria. We are now manufacturing micro hydropower turbines, wind turbines, solar water heaters and other renewable energy devices.

VISION

People use and apply appropriate technologies to improve the quality of their lives and that of future generations.

MISSION

CAT aims to help eradicate poverty and improve environmental quality in Cameroon through the development and use of appropriate technology, by demonstrating results, building skills and influencing people”.

CAT PROGRAMMES are centered on three main domains: Energy Efficient/Renewable Energy Technologies (EERETs), Sustainable Building Technologies (SBTs) and non-formal Technical Vocational Training (TVT).

CAT ACTIVITIES are primarily aimed at contributing to surmounting the following identified major obstacles in Cameroon to the use of sustainable energies for socio-economic development.

- 1- Insufficient awareness on the types, uses and benefits of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies at both national and local levels.
- 2- The inability of low/medium-income groups to acquire the obviously higher initial investment cost required to acquire energy efficient/renewable energy systems. This is mainly because financial institutions/banks are reluctant to provide the required financing, because low/medium-income borrowers and the rather unknown renewable energy technologies are seen as very risky.
- 3- Unsatisfactory energy sector reforms and the insufficient integration of sustainable energy issues into non-energy sector policies. This is as a result of insufficient capacities in the domain of sustainable energies at most Government levels and moreover the reluctance of some key Government Officials to collaborate with the private sector and civil society in developing appropriate strategies/projects to promote sustainable energies.
- 4- There exist limited numbers of local enterprises and NGOs working in this domain and moreover they often lack sufficient capacities to offer quality consultancy /technical /commercial services. As a result most of the renewable energy systems (solar, micro

hydropower, wind and biomass systems) installed in developing countries often fails.

5- The educational systems Cameroon still stresses more on the acquisition of theoretical knowledge rather than on practical knowledge/skills: Education is hardly directed towards seeking sustainable solutions to the needs of mankind neither is the school curriculum given industrial and commercial perspectives. This is the root cause of youth unemployment and low-technological levels in developing countries.

6-

AWARDS

CAT Cameroon's Recent Achievements. The following achievements have been crowned by three awards; one SME Development Award from the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon, two Awards of Excellence in 2002 and 2005 from Cameroon Post International.

1- Research, training of youths and upgrading local technicians in the design, construction and delivery of energy efficient/renewable energy technology systems. Each year at least four youths are trained and six local technicians upgraded. The Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon supported our action through a financial award in 2003. SES Germany and DGFK Germany has been rendering technical assistance by sending volunteer experts to us every year.

2- Organization of seminars/workshops for local key stakeholders on the types, uses and benefits of energy efficient and renewable energies. Energy efficient/renewable energy technology devices (electric and non-electric) are constructed and used during seminars/workshops to demonstrate the technical viability of these technologies. Seminars/workshops have been organized in all the seven divisions of the North West Province of Cameroon and 786 seminar participants completed energy utilization and requirement survey questionnaires.

Training of pupils and teachers and the creation of Appropriate Technology clubs (CAT Clubs) in schools to strengthen school curricula and demonstrate the cross linkages between renewable energies and school subjects. CAT Clubs exist in seven educational institutions in Cameroon and use renewable energy devices donated by CAT for teaching aids and further sensitization in various communities.

This action was carried out from February to September 2004 with a support grant from GTZ Germany and was published in the International Action Program of the Renewables 2004 Bonn Conference (page 171).

3- Feasibility studies and hydropower project designs for four village communities, two hospitals, one local council, two schools and two local industries. This involves assessing the natural energy resources available, assessing the energy utilization and requirement of target group, technical design of the scheme, environmental impact assessment and socio-economic impact assessment. Funding for these projects is being solicited through community contributions, private, government and international sources.

4- Set up of a technical unit and acquisition of necessary machines (milling, lathe etc) and hand tools for local manufacture of hydropower turbines, wind turbines and other renewable energy technology systems in partnership with an expert from Austria – January 2004.

5- Design, construction and supply of solar PV systems, AC. inverter power backups, improved cook stoves, solar agricultural dryers, solar water heaters, solar cookers etc.

6- Construction of a 20kw micro hydropower scheme for a Youth Centre – January to March 2005.

7- Construction of a 53kw micro hydropower scheme for a local industry and local manufacture of a cross-flow turbine for the scheme – on going.

8- Local manufacture of a 2400w/24v d.c. wind turbine for a local clinic – on going.

9- Organization of radio/TV programs and publication of newsletters (CAT Info) to create higher awareness on the types, uses and benefits of energy efficient and renewable energies.

COLLABORATION

CAT Cameroon is currently collaborating with the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) in facilitating the development of a National Energy Action Plan for poverty reduction (PANERP) in Cameroon. We participated in the last Francophone Africa GVEP Facilitators workshop in Senegal. The Principal objective of the GVEP Facilitator's Workshop in Francophone Africa was to unite the key-actors involved in the execution of the GVEP policies in Francophone Africa to learn from each others experience and initiative as regards the utilization of Energy for Poverty Reduction (EPR).

COOPERATION

DGFK (German Society for the Advancement of Culture) since 2001

SES (Senior Expert Service) since 2002

IPC (Institute for Planning & Consulting) since 2003

GTZ: Now GIZ (German Institute for Cooperation)

For Sustainable Development and Basic Human Needs

Technology is considered Appropriate when it is able to employ \ on-site Resources optimally and in an Environmentally friendly manner, when it also suits peoples Ecological, Economic and Socio-cultural circumstances.

IMPACT OF INEFICIENT LIGTHING IN REMOTE GRASS FIELD AREA

An average each household spends about 5,000FCFA (Euro 7.00) per month on lighting and a radio alone (i.e. kerosene for the lamp, candles, dry cells for the touch and radio). This is five times higher than what a similar household with access to grid connection spends on powering two electric lights and a radio in our towns and cities. The cost of a litre of kerosene or a pair of dry cells in the local market is more than the cost of a litre of palm oil. At times a family resorts to burning kernel chaffs to provide light in the home.

The women or children trek a distance of over 15km or pay a transport cost of 2,000FCFA Mbengwi, a neighboring town, just to grind maize at a cost of 600FCFA (Euro 1.00) per 20liter bucket, since there is no corn mill in the village.

It is therefore, more cost effective to provide communities with decentralized electricity supply systems (e.g. micro/mini hydropower) than to extend high tension (AES SONEL) through many kilometers to dispersed remote communities with low load demands. In addition, running a generator in such remote areas is expensive: high maintenance cost due to lack of skilled technicians and high fuel cost (600FCFA/litre) equals (a Litre of palm oil) due to distance/bad access roads.

BENEFITS AND POTENTIAL OF AT IN CAMEROON

Cameroon is still a developing country with its economy based on natural resources and the educational system as well the economy focuses, more on the acquisition of theoretical skills rather than on practical skills/technological knowledge. As a result, this has led to high unemployment rates and a slow technological development.

The continuous degradation of our environment needs sustainable and appropriate solutions. The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) was created in February 2001 with the main aim of offering practical solutions to poverty and environmental degradation through the use and application of appropriate technology. CAT functioned informally as a group of individuals until she was duly registered in July 2002 as a non-profit making Development, Non-Governmental Organisation, (DNGO) under the 1990 law Governing the formation and functioning of associations in Cameroon with the following registration reference number:

RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY (ENERGY SOLUTION)

The Challenge: Energy is a basic human requirement for human development, yet over 90% of people in our rural areas have no access to grid connection or any form of modern commercial energy.

People rely almost exclusively on biomass-wood, charcoal and organic waste for cooking and heating. Over exploitation of these resources has a negative impact on our environment and moreover women and children are now spending more time and money to procure fuel

wood. Besides, fuel wood is inefficient and has a low value in the commercial sector. CAT promotes the;

- Use of solar energy for rural electrification, household lighting, cooking, baking, water heating, drying of agricultural products, refrigeration etc.
- Use of micro and Pico hydropower for rural electrification.
- Use of biomass technology i.e. fuel-efficient stoves (improved stoves) to cut down the fuel wood consumption in our kitchens by over 60%.
- Use of biogas technology for the production of cooking gas and quality fertilizer, and as an appropriate waste disposal and reuse technique.
- Use of wind power for electricity generation and water pumping.
- Use of dynamo power for small-scale electricity generation and refrigeration.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (HOUSING SOLUTION)

The challenge: Housing is a universal need. Continuous increase in the cost of industry-manufactured building material is now a worldwide problem e.g. a rural Cameroonian labourer may need to work for two weeks to earn enough money to buy one bag of cement meanwhile in comparison alternative cement or binders can be produced locally on a small scale and at a much lower cost. Buildings constructed in the pre-Portland cement era some 2000 years ago (Governors Office and Bafut Palace-all in the North West Province of Cameroon, Ngoundere council- North Province of Cameroon, Buckingham Palace-UK etc) are still in practical use today.

The manner and composition in which an environment is organized has a direct impact to the survival of the people living therein. Crime, disease, prostitution and hideout for criminals are influenced by slums, squatters' settlement and blighted areas. This is as a result urban sprawl and absence of regulated structural blue print for our urban and rural councils.

More than sufficient information on appropriate building materials and construction technologies for developing countries is available in the world today but only very few people-and least of all our local house builders-have access to it.

A Local building material has an advantage over the industry-manufactured materials in that it is affordable and durable when properly handled and treated.

Government everywhere considers support for improved standard of shelter as one of its primary responsibility. To compliment Government efforts in Cameroon on housing needs, CAT promotes Appropriate Building Technologies (ABT) to bridge the high cost of Building materials and construction.

CAT provides practical information and technical expertise in the:

Designing of structural master plans for communities and councils.

Designing and construction of appropriate low-cost housing and structures.

Treatment and Seasoning of local building material.

Production and use of appropriate building materials e.g. alternatives to cement, alternative roofing, walling, flooring, ceiling, rendering and painting.

Non-Formal Technical Vocational Training (Skilled Manpower Solution)

The challenge: Cameroon in general and the North West province in particular is experiencing widespread unemployment, increasing poverty conditions, social disintegration and extremely low levels of the availability of skilled man power and services.

There is a great need for our educational system to link vocational training to industry and business needs so as to fight poverty and unemployment. The demand for basic technical skills is higher in Cameroonian communities than the demand for expatriate/professional heavy industrial skills. Most practicing technicians in Cameroon are not up to date with innovations in recent technologies; they lack professional and management skills and the initial investment for industrial training/upgrading, which could ensure quality delivery service.

The Cameroon's ministry of public investment in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme jointly carried out studies and produced a Human Development Index Report for Cameroon in which they have recommended the development of technical Vocational Education as a solution to these vices in Cameroon. The Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon has taken further steps in encouraging small and medium size enterprises particularly in the technical domain.

CAT's programme is conceived as part of an effort to produce the technician and technologist category of the nation's skilled manpower requirements for the solving of unemployment problems. To provide non-formal technical training which is appropriate to our local environment, to the underprivileged and make it possible for them to earn a living out of it. Training at CAT is 75% practices and 25% theory culminating in an industrial practice.

Some university graduates spearheaded by Nkuh Njini Victor as a result of unemployment created CAT in June 2001 to create jobs and to develop skill among the young Cameroonians with the main aim of occupying themselves by gainfully being productive.

They perfectly knew the weakness among youths and decided to create a board of Directors made up of a cream of elders with moral reputes from all the main religious background in Cameroon, Parliamentarians, Minister of state and Intellectuals of various disciplines. They were our guardians, mentors and inspirations.

The same year 2001 CAT participated in business Development forum 2001 organized by the President of the Republic of Cameroon and later won the 1st price as the best grass root NGO with their locally produced appropriate technologies devices. That same year also, our very first request to the Senior Expert Service SES Germany for capacity building was granted.

2002 started with the first training workshop organized by CAT in partnership with SES-Germany on Passive Solar Architecture and production of African ethnic dolls where 26 youths were trained and certificates awarded.

Many others training workshops on SWOT analysis and Project developments with were organized with DED Bamenda in the year 2002.

Project Proposal

Prepared and presented by The Centre For Appropriate Technology (CAT)
Bamenda

1- BACKGROUND OF CAT-BAMENDA DNGO

1.1- INTRODUCTION:

Cameroon is still a developing country with its economy based on natural resources and the educational system in the economy focuses more on the acquisition of theoretical skills rather than on practical skills/technological knowledge, as a result, this has led to high unemployment rates and a slow technological development.

The continuous degradation of our environment needs sustainable and appropriate solutions. Considering that, collective efforts towards redressing contemporary development ills are being supported by the International Community and all Democratic Governments, the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) was created in February 2001 with the main aim of offering practical solutions to poverty and environmental degradation. CAT functioned informally as a group of individuals until she was later duly registered in July 2002 as a Non-Profit making Developmental Non-Governmental Organization, under the law governing the formation and functioning of associations in Cameroon with the following registration reference number: 0017/E29/1111/Vol.8/APPB of 10/07/02.

1.2- MAIN GOAL OF THE ORGANISATION

Environmental protection and poverty alleviation through the promotion and application of appropriate technology in Cameroon.

1.3- MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION

- 1.3.1- Underprivileged youths and practicing technicians are technically skilled.
- 1.3.2- CAT Graduates are resettled through our graduate assistance loan scheme.
- 1.3.3- Higher awareness and application of appropriate technology for rural development.
- 1.3.4- Creation of small and medium size industries that offer low cost consultancy on appropriate technologies.
- 1.3.5- Higher awareness and appreciation of Cameroonian arts and culture.

1.4- ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

1.4.1- GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

It is the supreme organ of the organization. It is made up of all the 28 registered members of the organization and a President and a Bureau heads it.

1.4.2- BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS (BOA)

It is the main supervisory organ. It is made up of 11 elected members elected from the General Assembly and is headed by a Chairperson and a Bureau.

1.4.3- SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE (SP): It is formed from the General Assembly when need arises to carry out specific functions. This includes the Audit Committee, Disciplinary Committee and Technical Committee etc.

1.4.4-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC):

It is the brain trust of the organization. This is the Technical operations level in charge of the implementation of schemes and programmes. This level is composed of;

1.4.4.1-PROGRAMME DIRECTOR (PD): She or he is the chief administrative officer and is the main contact Person.

1.4.4.2-COORDINATOR IN CHARGE OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (CPP): She or he is in charge of the planning, designing, management and the evaluation of all CAT programmes and projects, and directly assists the Programme Director.

1.4.4.3-COORDINATOR IN CHARGE OF FINANCE (CF): Keeps all finance records and records of all donations and is the Bursar of the organization.

1.4.4.4-COORDINATOR IN CHARGE OF MACHINERY (CM): She or he is in charge of all materials, equipment and machinery of the organization. She or he is the stores accountant.

1.4.4.5-PERMANENT SECRETARY (PS): She or he is in charge of the organizational records, incoming and out going mails, public relations and all secretarial works.

1.5- DEPARTMENTS IN CAT

CAT's programmes are organized in departments and a Head Of Department (HOD) heads each department. The Departments are;

1.51- Department of Appropriate Technology (DAT)

The main aim of this department is to offer training, and promote higher awareness and application of appropriate technologies in Cameroon eg renewable energy technology, biomass technologies, and resource recovery/reuse techniques and others.

1.52- Department of Building and Construction (DBC)

The main aim of this department is to offer low cost informal technical vocational training in building and construction and promote the production of low cost housing in Cameroon.

1.53- Department of Art and Culture (DAC)

This department promotes higher awareness and the appreciation of Cameroonian arts and culture. It ensures the adaptability of technology to the African culture. It also offers varied training to rural women in the domain of African Dolls production, traditional fashion design, craftwork and marketing.

1.54- Department of Electrical Electronics (DEE)

It provides low cost non-formal technical vocational training to underprivileged youths and technical upgrading courses to practicing technicians in the field of electrical electronics.

1.55- Department of Auto Mechanics (DAM)

It provides low cost non-formal technical vocational training to underprivileged youths and technical upgrading courses to practicing technicians in the field of auto mechanics.

1.6- ORGANIGRAM OF CAT BAMENDA DGNO: See attached copy.

1.7- ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAT-BAMENDA

Despite the fact that CAT-Bamenda is a relatively young organization, our activities and programmes have created a lot of impact both at the local and national levels. This is depicted, by the Awards and recognition we have received; A Best Developmental Non-Governmental Organization Award from Cameroon Post International and a Presidential Award from His Excellency President Paul Biya of the Republic Of Cameroon. Some of our major achievements in the domain of Renewable Energy Technology are;

1.7.1- We have constructed the following renewables; two solar cooker boxes, one parabolic solar cooker, one prototype solar collector, two dynamo power boxes, rechargeable mobile

220V power unit and two thermo boxes.

1.7.2- We have assembled and installed the following; three 100W solar PV power stations, one 200W solar PV power station, wireless weather analyzer station.

1.7.3- We have acquired one dynamo power radio/lamp, one solar rechargeable lamp and a manual ice-fix machine.

1.7.4- We have organized five workshops on eco-technology (construction, assembling, repairs etc), marketing and advertising. Our target groups/participants were CAT staff, grassroots CIGs, NGOs and GOs.

1.7.5- We have exhibited in many forums, seminars, workshops, conferences and fairs.

1.7.6- We have carried out pre-survey and feasibility studies on

*Strategic plans for the provision of renewable energy technologies to the rural areas of Njikwa Sub-Division of the North West Province of Cameroon. (a Case study report available on request).

*Energy crises in Cameroon and the socio-economic/environmental assessment.

1.7.7- We have carried out numerous electrical electronic repair services to the general public and servicing of the Solar PV power plant at the Spanish Sisters Convent Bamenda.

1.7.8- We are currently training 16 underprivileged youths in electrical electronic trades and adaptation, and computer software.

1.7.9- Our networking/partnership with Senior Expert Service (SES-Germany), Institute for Planning and Consulting and DGFK-Germany has been very smooth and of benefit to our community. Special thanks to these organizations for their material and technical assistance, especially to their experts headed by Professor Norbert Pinstch, who have visited us twice and offered varied training to our staff and target groups. Infact, Prof. Pinstch is our "God Father"

Poverty Alleviation and Environmental Protection through Renewable Energy Technology

2.1- PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Republic of Cameroon is located in Central Africa along the Gulf of Guinea. It lies 80 N of the Equator and between 50 and 120 E of the Greenwich Meridian.

Cameroon has a population of over 15 million with over 200 ethnic groups/dialects. Cameroon is bilingual with French and English as the official Languages.

Cameroon lies around the Equator and enjoys a huge amount of sunshine through out the year and has two major seasons i.e. the dry and rainy season. The rainy season begins from March to September and the dry season from September to March.

Cameroon is divided into four main ecological regions; the plains in the coastal region, the Equatorial Rain Forest in the South region, the savanna grassland in the Center region, the Sahel region or semi arid vegetation in the North. The North West Province situated around the center region is very mountainous. Cameroon is very rich in natural resources and due to her ecological/geographical diversity; she is often referred to as “Africa in miniature”.

Cameroon just like most developing countries is a principal consumer of primary fuels (i.e. fuel wood). Cameroon uses very little of coal. Fossil fuels like Oil and gas are primarily used for transportation. There is no nuclear energy for commercial or industrial use. Direct conversions of solar energy are used at a very small scale.

It is estimated that 80% of the total energy consumed is used for home cooking in the form of fuel wood. This usage of energy is changing slowly as more oil is used for transportation, gas for cooking in cities, and electricity for lighting in towns and some villages. Most of the electricity comes from hydro electricity plants and a little from thermal generation. In the north of Cameroon one can find a few windmills.

The uncontrolled use of energy resources and other natural resources in Cameroon has resulted in serious environmental degradation and Cameroonians are now feeling the effects e.g. the firewood crises that is forcing women/children to spend hours covering long distances to fetch fuel wood and as a result firewood dealers are charging horrendous prizes, the fall in the water level in dams forcing our sole Hydroelectricity Company to resort to charging exorbitant bills and power rationing (at times some quarters go for days without electricity and this has resulted in a fall in economic activities, health hazards due to poor refrigeration, increase in insecurity and deaths in hospitals operating rooms), climate change, fall in soil fertility etc. The increasing prize for fossil fuels like gas, kerosene and petrol is not helping situations.

It is therefore, very clear that there is a close link between poverty and environmental degradation and the underlying problem must be tackled in a integrated way by protecting and expanding the environment and natural resources on which poor people depend. The efforts of other developmental agencies to preserve and replace lost forest will be more successful if the people can have access to alternative sources of energy.

Renewable energy technology and appropriate technology is possibly an ultimate solution to rural poverty, for energy is fundamental to rural development considering the fact that Cameroon is a developing country with an economy which is mainly dependent on natural resources.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) Bamenda DNGO since her conception, amongst her other programmes, has all along embarked on promoting the use of renewable energy technology as a tool to fight poverty, social disintegration, unemployment and environmental degradation.

Amongst the numerous public workshops and exhibitions we have organized or participated in, we have also targeted schools. This has created a lot of impact as students from various schools visit our Centre every day to seek advice on devices they are trying to build or present to us what they have already constructed. Some of these devices constructed by students, we have on exhibition in our exhibition hall. In one exhibition, a student pleaded for us create a CAT-Club in his School. It should be noted that some few schools have science clubs with almost similar objectives but these clubs are hardly recognized nor given assistance. We have received applications from some of these clubs and from science students of various secondary schools and we are currently negotiating the modalities of such a partnership with the various school authorities.

We strongly believe therefore that there is a great need to inculcate technological ideas in the Cameroonian youths, considering the fact that the educational system in Cameroon stresses more on the acquisition of theoretical skills rather than on the acquisition of practical knowledge and skills, which are necessary for our economic development. As a result many technically talented youths languish in our numerous Secondary General Education Schools preparing for the General Certificate Examination. In the North West Province for example 87% of the youths attend Secondary General Education Schools and only 13% attend the very few existing Technical/Vocational Schools. This is the root cause of the ever-rising unemployment rate and the economic stagnation in Cameroon because these youths after completion of their secondary education look up solely to Government for employment. There is therefore a great need for a Technical vocational study that will motivate young people to meet a comprehensive set of general and personal education objectives.

2.2- PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this pilot project we intend intensifying our campaigns on the use of renewable energy technology to cover all the seven Divisional Head quarters of the North West Province of Cameroon and then launch and train one Appropriate Technology club in a Secondary General Education school of each Divisional Head Quarter on construction techniques/functions of some basic renewable energy devices. These clubs will be called CAT-Clubs and will be coordinated by CAT Club Coordinators who are actually science teachers of the respective institutions and will be selected and offered training on renewable energy technologies in CAT premises.

The project will start with the acquisition of material/equipment both local and imported, followed by training of 14 trainers (i.e. 7 CAT staff and 7 CAT Club coordinators) on the job on types of renewable energy devices, their uses, advantages, disadvantages, cost and construction techniques. All the material, which will be needed during the various workshops with CAT clubs, will be prepared. This will ease the running of the 7 workshops in the schools.

The campaign will start with a launching ceremony under the auspices of the Governor of the North West Province, with other key stakeholders i.e. CIGs, NGOs and GOs, estimated at 120 participants. There will be exhibition, demonstrations and educative talks on the various types of renewable energy technology devices, their uses, advantages, disadvantages and cost. Also there will film shows on environmental issues, media coverage and a coffee break.

During the first day in each Divisional Head Quarter, specific stake holders in the area (leaders of women groups/youth groups/NGOs/CIGs/GOs, parliamentarians, mayors, paramount chiefs will participate in a pre-workshop/campaign whereby there will be demonstration, educative talks and films on renewable energy technologies and environmental issues.

The second day will be workshop with the CAT Club whereby the Student members will be trained on the various types of renewable energy technology devices, their functions, uses, advantages, disadvantages and construction techniques. We intend training 20 CAT Club student members (10 boys + 10 Girls) in each selected Institution.

This is just a starting point for a long fruitful partnership whereby many ideas will be developed and implemented in collaboration with these clubs. In these CAT clubs, students will be able to exercise their technical potentials, gain information on technological developments, exercise practically the theoretical knowledge gained in class, adapt and conceive technical innovations. Science teachers, as teaching tools will also use the material/equipment donated to these clubs.

2.3- PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 2.31- Higher awareness, acceptance and application of renewable energy technologies
- 2.32- Strengthened capacities of 7 CAT Club Coordinators and 140 student CAT Clubs members, on the design, construction and delivery of renewable energy technologies.
- 2.33- Strengthened capacity of CAT in the domain of renewable energy technology.
- 2.34- Promotion and consideration of renewable energy technology as a tool to rural lighting and energy supply by Cameroonian decision makers.

2.4- EXPECTED RESULTS

- 2.41- 350 key stakeholders of the seven Divisional Communities are sensitized on renewable energy technology, its usage and impact on the environment.
- 2.41- 120 key persons of NGOs, GOs and CIGs are informed about CAT, its renewable energy devices and its on-going renewable energy campaign project during the launching ceremony.
- 2.42- 7 functioning CAT clubs, one in each Divisional Head Quarter of the North West Province.
- 2.43- Each CAT Club organizes and carries out at least one exhibition before the end of the project implementation period.
- 2.44- In each CAT Club four renewable energy devices are constructed.

2.45- CAT has constructed, assembled and acquired more renewable energy devices for demonstration purposes.

2.46- Each CAT club/Institution has acquired one solar cooker box, one solar parabolic cooker, and one rechargeable solar lamp unit, one thermo box, one dynamo power box and one dynamo power radio/lamp.

2.47- 7 CAT Club Coordinators, 7 CAT staff and 140 CAT Club youths receive training on renewable energy technology and environmental issues.

2.48- Heads of the 7 selected schools make financial provision for the functioning of their respective CAT Clubs.

2.49- Negotiate with the Ministry of National Education to include appropriate technological studies in secondary general education school curriculum.

2.491- Collaboration with various NGOs to use renewable energy devices for improved post harvest technology/labour saving devices for their target groups.

2.492- Acquire tax exoneration for imported renewable energy devices.

2.5 IMPACT

2.51- Reduced use of fuel wood in homes and resulting reduced health risks associated with burning of fuel wood.

2.52- Reduced deforestation, carbon emissions and climate change, and creation a favourable carbon dioxide balance.

2.53- Reduced burden on women and children to collect fuel wood.

2.54- Time gained by women and children are used for other gainful activities.

2.55- Improved living standard through home lighting and energy supply with solar energy.

2.56- More youths are motivated to study science, technology and environment.

2.7- HUMAN RESOURCES (14):

2.7.1- Coordinator In charge of Programme and Projects who will be incharge of the management, monitoring and evaluation of the project from implementation to the final report.

2.7.2- The Programme Director who will be in charge of the general supervision, contacts and correspondences.

2.7.3- The Project Liaison Person who will see to it that funding is used and accounts are settled according to terms of the contract.

2.7.4- One Renewable Energy Expert who will carry out training, supervise construction and deliver lectures plus training during exhibition and workshops.

2.7.5- One Environmentalist who will offer lectures on environmental management, protection and degradation during exhibitions and workshops.

2.7.6- One electrical electronics technician who will ensure the smooth functioning of power installations during campaigns and workshops.

2.7.7- One journalist from the press and one TV journalist to cover activities from start to finish.

2.7.8- One cook to carry out cooking demonstrations with the use of solar devices during exhibitions and prepare lunch break for workshop participants.

2.7.9- One secretary to type all reports and attends to enquiries relating to the project.

2.7.10- The following staff of CAT Bamenda will be motivate for their contributions towards the smooth running of the project; Head of the Department for Appropriate Technology, Coordinator In charge of Machinery, Coordinator In charge of Finance and the Watchman.

2.8- TARGET GROUPS: Seven Divisional Head Quarters of the North West Province, Students/Teachers of Seven Secondary General Education Schools in this areas,

Government Authorities, Traditional Authorities, Leaders of women groups/youth groups/NGOs, Parliamentarians and Businessmen.

2.9- IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: The implementation of the project should start at the beginning of the dry season i.e. by October 2003, so that the campaigns should take place during the heart of the dry season and the project will finally be completed in June 2003.

What is AT for CAT

Technology is considered Appropriate when it is able to employ on-site Resources optimally and in an Environmentally friendly manner, when it also suits peoples Ecological, Economic and Socio-cultural circumstances.

For Sustainable Development and Basic Human Needs.

IMPACT OF INEFICIENT LIGTHING IN REMOTE GRASS FIELD AREA

An average each household spends over 5,000FCFA (Euro 7.00) per month on lighting and a radio alone (i.e. kerosene for the lamp, candles, dry cells for the touch and radio). This is five times higher than what a similar household with access to grid connection spends on powering two electric lights and a radio in our towns and cities. The cost of a litre of kerosene or a pair of dry cells in the local market is more than the cost of a litre of palm oil. At times a family resorts to burning kernel chaffs to provide light in the home.

The women or children trek a distance of over 15km or pay a transport cost of 2,000FCFA Mbengwi, a neighboring town, just to grind maize at a cost of 600FCFA (Euro 1.00) per 20liter bucket, since there is no corn mill in the village.

It is therefore, more cost effective to provide communities with decentralized electricity supply systems (e.g. micro/mini hydropower) than to extend high tension (AES SONEL) through many kilometers to dispersed remote communities with low load demands. In addition, running a generator in such remote areas is expensive: high maintenance cost due to lack of skilled technicians and high fuel cost (600FCFA/litre) equals (a Litre of palm oil) due to distance/bad access roads.

BENEFITS AND POTENTIAL OF AT IN CAMEROON

Cameroon is still a developing country with its economy based on natural resources and the educational system as well the economy focuses, more on the acquisition of theoretical skills rather than on practical skills/technological knowledge. As a result, this has let to high unemployment rates and a slow technological development.

The continuous degradation of our environment needs sustainable and appropriate solutions. The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) was created in February 2001 with the main aim of offering practical solutions to poverty and environmental degradation through the use and application of appropriate technology. CAT functioned informally as a group of individuals until she was duly registered in July 2002 as a non-profit making Development, Non-Governmental Organisation, (DNGO) under the law Governing the formation and functioning of associations in Cameroon with the following registration reference number:

RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY (ENERGY SOLUTION)

The Challenge: Energy is a basic human requirement for human development, yet over 90% of people in our rural areas have no access to grid connection or any form of modern commercial energy.

People rely almost exclusively on biomass-wood, charcoal and organic waste for cooking and heating. Over exploitation of these resources has a negative impact on our environment and moreover women and children are now spending more time and money to procure fuel wood. Besides, fuel wood is inefficient and has a low value in the commercial sector. CAT promotes the;

- Use of solar energy for rural electrification, household lighting, cooking, baking, water heating, drying of agricultural products, refrigeration etc.
- Use of micro and Pico hydropower for rural electrification.
- Use of biomass technology i.e. fuel-efficient stoves (improved stoves) to cut down the fuel wood consumption in our kitchens by over 60%.
- Use of biogas technology for the production of cooking gas and quality fertilizer, and as an appropriate waste disposal and reuse technique.
- Use of wind power for electricity generation and water pumping.
- Use of dynamo power for small-scale electricity generation and refrigeration.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (HOUSING SOLUTION)

The challenge: Housing is a universal need. Continuous increase in the cost of industry-manufactured building material is now a world wide problem e.g. a rural Cameroonian labourer may need to work for two weeks to earn enough money to buy one bag of cement meanwhile in comparison alternative cement or binders can be produced locally on a small scale and at a much lower cost. Buildings constructed in the pre-Portland cement era some 2000 years ago (Governors Office and Bafut Palace-all in the North West Province of Cameroon, Ngoundere council- North Province of Cameroon, Buckingham Palace-UK etc) are still in practical use today.

The manner and composition in which an environment is organized has a direct impact to the survival of the people living therein. Crime, disease, prostitution and hideout for criminals are influenced by slums, squatters' settlement and blighted areas. This is as a result urban sprawl and absence of regulated structural blue print for our urban and rural councils.

More than sufficient information on appropriate building materials and construction technologies for developing countries is available in the world today but only very few people-and least of all our local house builders-have access to it.

A local building material has an advantage over the industry-manufactured materials in that it is affordable and durable when properly handled and treated.

Government everywhere considers support for improved standard of shelter as one of its primary responsibility. To compliment Government efforts in Cameroon on housing needs, CAT promotes Appropriate Building Technologies (ABT) to bridge the high cost of Building materials and construction.

CAT provides practical information and technical expertise in the:
Designing of structural master plans for communities and councils.

Designing and construction of appropriate low-cost housing and structures.

Treatment and Seasoning of local building material.

Production and use of appropriate building materials e.g. alternatives to cement, alternative roofing, walling, flooring, ceiling, rendering and painting.

Non-Formal Technical Vocational Training (Skilled Manpower Solution)

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The Youngster-Club

The ears of the decision-makers are often filled by sounds in the background, these coming not only from the voters but also from wise partners, who help indirectly to choose the direction of thinking. Neutrally engaged however are the children, who help the adults unintentionally, foremost being the parents, to navigate in a younger generation. Most different regimes have taken advantage of the children. Active support of the new generation is achieved by exposing the children at an early age to the new concepts.

In business terms unfortunately, we see the young consumers being educated as consumers for the advantage of the consumer goods industry. Consumption means destruction of resources, environmental damage, superficialness in various areas, it is therefore important, that the medium of the children is utilized in a positive manner and also to open their minds for the problems of the present times.

It is this realization, which forms the basis of C.A.T. (NGO) and the Youngster Club. The idea developed in 2009, which led in 2010 to a number of events and thereby also to the travel of a private german travelling circus and its two artists, who were helped by DGFK, the partner organization of CAT, in travelling all the way from Germany to Cameroun.

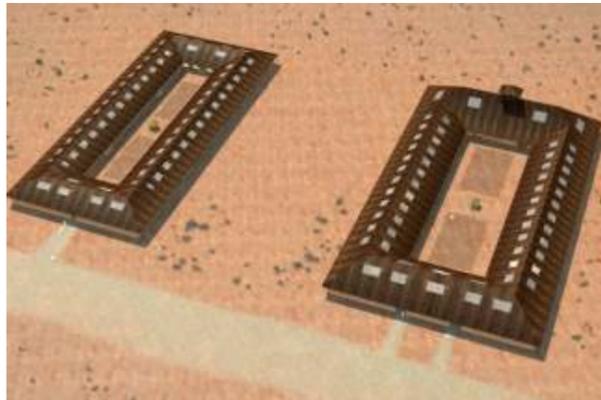
The children were informed and educated in three presentations.

On the Youth Day, combined with the 50th anniversary of the independence of the country, children were invited to an event, in which drinking chocolate and cakes were made, with the help of solar energy oven and solar energy cooker.

In one of the largest schools of the regional capital Bamenda, the programme director Mr. Victor of CAT introduced the children to the concept, which was further explained by the Training Coordinator, Mr. Manasse well before the children became tired. General jubilation was the proof, that the adopted method was correct.

At a third event, the CAT displayed its gadgets, together with Tombola and small performances by the circus people.

The general tendency was hope for repetition in the next year, eventually integrated into a theater performance and highlighting the above mentioned problem areas.



KAM-RHC&RHDRCC-BirdsView



KAM-RHC&RHDRCC-INbirdwsview



KAM-RHC&RHDRCC-view



KAM-RHC-Entrance



KAM-RHC-NoiseBreaker



KAM-RHDRCC-SchoolWorkshop

Regarding the construction project

“The Royal Rehabilitation Centre” (RHC) and “The Royal Humanitarian Development Reformation Centre” (RHDRC)

in the north-west region of Cameroon.

The traditional forms of medicine from Africa, Asia and South America appear to enjoy a popularity even in the classic industrialized countries, where there is a growing recognition of the ancient knowledge of the east. Even the global pharmaceutical industry sends teams into far away regions to profit from the knowledge of the local people.

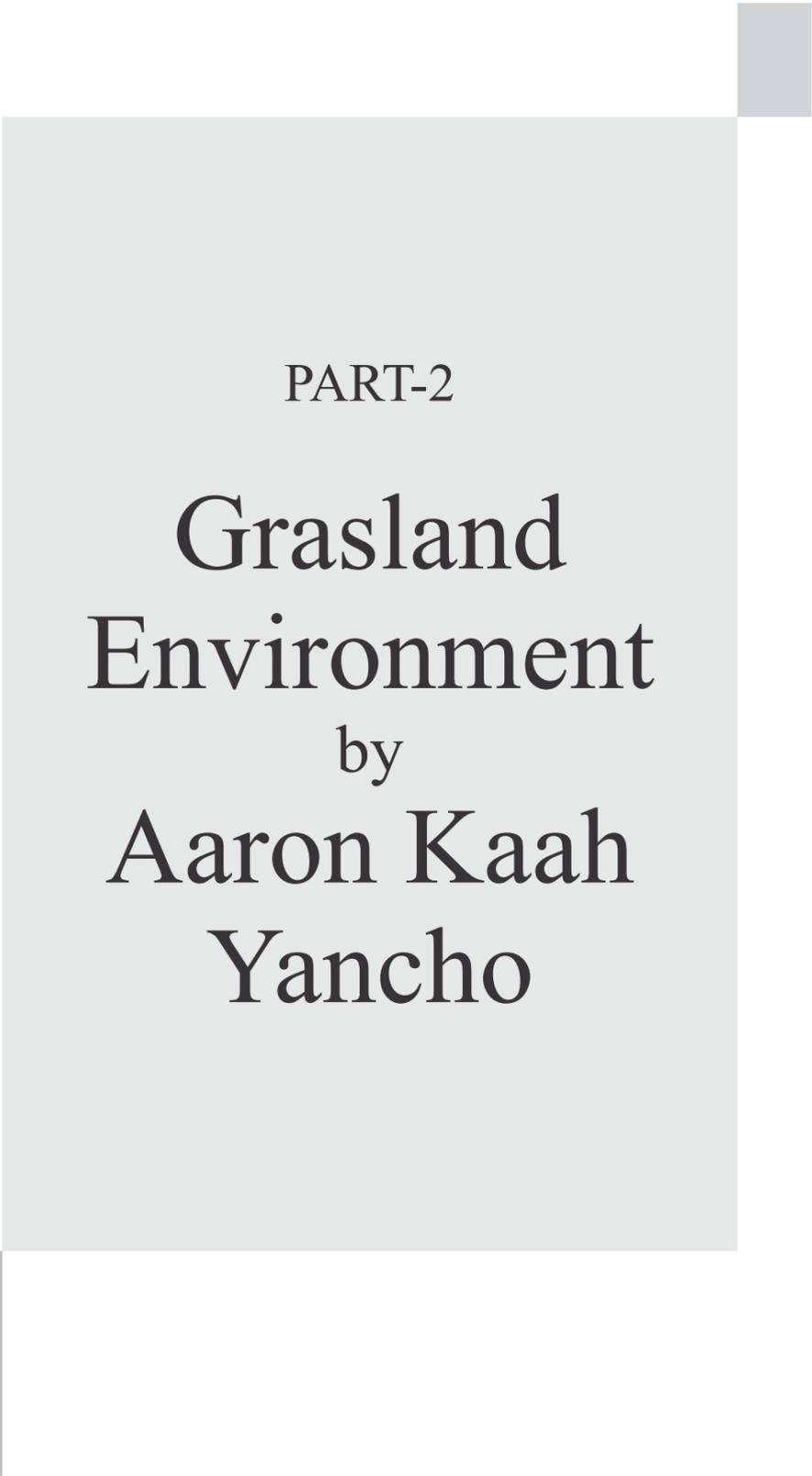
In Africa the Republic of Cameroon is specially known in this context due to the personal attention of HRE Ambassador Dr Simon Leshey (I), King of African Cameroon Natural Healers, and representative of the Royal Development Cooperation Foundation. He is also the founder of the RHC and the RHDRC project.

The advisors of the King recommend measures for maintaining the traditional culture while keeping in mind the general economic situation and with the aim to keep the running costs as low as possible.

It is for this reason that the traditional construction forms, local materials, using natural lighting and ventilation as well as flexibility and autonomy of the infra-structure should be utilized and promoted. These goals are not possible to be achieved through the usual western-oriented technology. The current project is therefore also in this context extremely important.

CAT (NGO) has over 10 years of local experience in the field of Appropriate Technology. The NGO has received award from the president of the republic as well as prizes also in the individual regions.

With the assistance of the advisor to HRE Ambassador Dr Simon Leshey (I) it was possible to develop a team of experts, who shall take up the described challenges.



PART-2

Grasland
Environment
by
Aaron Kaah
Yancho

Motivated by Support

Eyebe Marguerite 52 is a Heifer International Cameroon motivated farmer who received a gift of goats through her groupe des Femme Agricultrice et Eleveuse D'Efok in July 2008 in Obala Sub division some 48 km on the Yaounde – Bafia high way in Cameroon.

Marguerite is married to Eyebe Jean, 60 and they have nine children (3 girls and 6 boys)

Marguerite ended her primary education at her teens, because her parents were not interested in girl-child education. At the age of 17, in a bid to escape the tortures of poverty she got married to Eyebe Jean a secondary school teacher from another tribe in her sub division. Her husband's meager salaries could not give them any better living. "Our main meal was cassava and starch" the woman recalled in distress at the time. Marguerite was not from the same tribe as her husband and that deprived her of social inclusion in the village. "I felt very inferior in the presence of other women as I hardly attended any meetings or gathering. I couldn't express myself in public to tell anyone my situation" she lamented at the time. "In 1997 life became increasingly difficult" marguerite said.

Marguerite's joined four Christian women to form a self help group as a best way of making ends meet. "We contributed 100FCFA (£ 0.14) from which members borrowed to purchase kerosene for lighting. We started farming maize on a 500 meter squares piece of land provided by the village head" the farmer said. The first harvest was 15Kg of maize. The group members shared the proceeds. "Because I ran the family alone this was not enough for our feeding" she believed. By April 2007, Marguerite's group had increased to 20members (1man 19 women). "The same year, we met Groupe d'initiative Commune des Producteurs Vivrieres (PROV) that had benefited from (SACHIC) Send A Cow and Heifer International Cameroon assistance in 2006 and they gave us directives on how to get help. We applied and were lucky to receive assistance from SACHIC in July 2008" the farmer recounted.

Heifer International Cameroon brought Marguerite and her group member's capacity building lessons on leadership and group dynamics, goat husbandry techniques, community animal health care, ethno veterinary practice, gender equity, construction and use of bio-sand filters, and non violent conflict management. Marguerite and other 19 members each received four goats, agricultural seeds and farm tools as an encouragement to put the knowledge in to practice. "My husband out of curiosity attended the training on gender equity" she said. The teachings inspired the man to support his wife in all their farming activities. Their children emulated this example and were supporting their parents in every way. In severely cultivating and composting their farm--- the couple harvested 1.5tons of maize as against 850kg, one ton of cassava as against 4500kg and 1750kg of vegetables as against 360kg. "Our nutrition had greatly improved in quality, quantity and variety" Marguerite said. Marguerite went to the market with the food crops and made income beyond her wildest dreams for their children school fee, hospital bills and emergency spending.

By dialoguing with her husband, Marguerite gained her freedom of social inclusion in the community." I was able to attend several workshops, trainings on Bio-sand water

purification and exhibitions organized by SACHIC within and out of EfoK community” the farmer said. These trainings brought the woman a wealth of experience. She was the lone resource person in her community who spear headed the installation of the Bio sand water filters. The couple is also skillful in the processing of cassava by products. Their fame has gone beyond their community. Marguerite from her experiences had resumed many responsibilities in her community, she is secretary in Groupe d’initiative commune des Femme Agricultrice et Eleveuse D’EfoK and president of a conglomeration of 11 common initiative groups, and a social network under the National Participatory Development Programme in charge of family welfare. “My husband bought me a cell phone to facilitate communicate with all my association members” she boasted.

Marguerite and her husband have daring plans to pass on the gift when time comes but have evidently shown their willingness to do so by sharing their food crops with the poor and needy.

Eyebe facilitating bio-sand filter training and installation in Abono Community member happily collecting pure water from installed filter

“I wish to thank SACHIC so much for having made us come out of hunger, poverty and misery. My family will live to ever remember SACHIC”. Marguerite concluded.

Heifer International Cameroon’s Gift of Education is a Gift of Hope

When her husband died eight years ago, Agnes Behoumié, 41, was left all alone in a mud house, with a thatched roof with her five children. Agnes grappled with the daily challenges to feed and send her children to school. She had a farm, though, left to her by her late husband. This was her primary source of income. But the farm wasn’t doing so well. Over time, the land became less fertile. The widow depended upon cassava byproducts like gari and kukum for an income. She also sold fruit and groundnuts to complement her family income. Her monthly income stood at 30,000 FCFA (\$60).

Agnes registered her membership with Groupe d’Initiative Commune des l’Elites Agricole de Yambassa (GICOMELY), in search of hope and comfort. The group applied for Heifer International Cameroon’s assistance. Heifer International Cameroon came to their rescue. The first step was a workshop on the just and sustainable development, improved sheep husbandry, report writing, record keeping and filing, gender equity and HIV and AIDS. The group members were later given seeds, farm materials and cash to help them interested in coming to the trainings. Agnes received 30.000 FCFA (\$ 60) to supplement the construction of her sheep pen to start a sheep project.

The gifts helped Agnes make ends meet. In her community men mostly did the sheep rearing, but Agnes shunned this stereotype. “At first I saw the keeping of sheep to be a man’s job but from knowledge gained from Heifer International Cameroon I have made up my mind to come over this,” the widow said. With income from the sale of food crops she bought timber and made a good pen. Her hopes and aspirations were high. “The animals will provide me income, with which to send my children to school and pay their hospital bills. I will use its manure to fertilize my farm, and the food crops and meat will aid us to feed well and to source money for any extra spending,” She said.

Agnes said that the trainings enabled her to keep good records of all her farm produce. “The trainings received have enabled me to start recording all that I harvest from my farms and what I have invested in the sheep house,” she said. According to Agnes this alone helped her sense of belonging and community participation. “My brother in law who wanted to inherit me now gives me respect and has shunned the idea, I am sure that before the end of the project, my live will change positively,” she continued. Agnes works every day for success. “I will ever remain grateful to Heifer International Cameroon, for her support to under privileged persons like me. I pray that the organization should live forever,” she concluded.

Showing Appreciation with Hard Work

Sima Hanna is an appreciated beneficiary of a Heifer International Cameroon gift of sheep in Moutourwa subdivision of Mayo Kani division of the Far North Region of Cameroon. Hanna received her blessing through her GIC Djounoukom Vou of Mordok in 1999. She is mother of five children (3 boys, 3 girls), a girl in secondary school and two boys in primary school. The last two children are not yet of school going age.

Before Hanna braved poverty, she farmed by hand for a living almost like every woman in her community, low harvest and the lack of support from her spouse down played good yields. The woman also kept some small animals from which to source additional income but her little knowledge of proper animal husbandry left her and the animals at the same level.

Heifer International Cameroon responded to the plight of Hanna and her group members when they applied in 2009. A series of capacity building modules on leadership, group dynamic and management, compost making, improved sheep husbandry, gender equity, on HIV & AIDS and Heifer International cornerstones were handed down to the farmers. “In addition, I received a two-wheeled truck, improved seed varieties (cowpea, groundnut and maize) and four sheep (3 female and 1 ram)” Hanna said. The awareness unmasked the talent in Hanna as she intensified her farming activities; from the animals she got manure for her farms. “I harvested 200 kg of maize compared to 100 kg last farming season on the same piece of land” Hanna excited said about her progress. Observing the visible signs of development Hanna’s husband submitted to her plea for support at work. The husband’s untiring support in household chores and farm activities reflected visibly in their output. “I sold 100 kg of maize at 12,000FCFA (\$24), spent 6,200FCFA (\$12.4) on clothes and the rest on food during end of year festivities” the woman said. The family had plenty to feed on and that made the once impoverished family healthy.

Hanna with her sheep “Before Heifer International Cameroon’s assistance, I used to have on average of 20,000FCFA (\$40) from sales of animals”. She said. Hanna earned 75,000 FCFA (\$150) from the sale of three sheep at the beginning of the project. This was the base of her spending income. The couple is saving for rainy days. Their children are in school doing fine and their present renewed hope challenges the past “I now feel happy in my village as both men and women respect me for my ownership of animals” Hanna confirmed. The couple has vowed to show appreciation to the donations of Heifer International Cameroon with hard work. Their financial empowerment is also a motivation to share with the impoverished “I want to thank Heifer International Cameroon for what she has done to me and my family I pray God to continue to bless you all”. Hanna wished.

Two Hands Made Work Lighter

Wangbé is a Heifer International Cameroon farmer who wanted her family to become closer. Wangbe was schooled by Heifer International Cameroon through GIC Boyare of Goudjouing. She has been married to Watey Joseph for 15yrs and they have three children.

Wangbe and her family where farming is in a precipitous decline due to drought. Her spending income was seriously compromised. “It is true we did not have enough money to meet our needs, I was managing by selling gravel that I gather around the village; with the money I bought salt and soap for the family,” she said. Limited resources and poor communication between Wangbe and her husband led to a series of hostilities. “It started with my husband’s excessive consumption of alcohol that brought division in the family,” she said crying. The woman, too, retaliated by drinking but her financial situation only deteriorated, leaving her and the children malnourished. “I could not stay for more than three months without abandoning matrimonial home in search of solace anywhere,” said Wangbe. The Heifer International Cameroon training on integrated agriculture, gender equity, HIV and AIDS, composting, pen construction broadened her mind. The donation of pigs and donkeys to her as a Heifer International Cameroon helped her put the ideas she learned in the trainings into practice.

Hopeful, Wangbe reduced her alcoholic intake and concentrated on her farming. She used techniques she learned Heifer International Cameroon. Her hard work attracted her husband to join in the farming activities. “As time passed on my husband also started to change,” she said. The husband and wife now took care of their animals together. Two sets of hands made the work lighter and their children began also helping to care for the animals. They began using compost on their fields and used donkeys to till the fields. Their efforts tripled the food crop yields

The husband became more conscious of his duties and gave off alcohol. “Last month, we decided to sell some of our harvest {cowpea} in order to compile documents for our child to seat for the entrance examination to secondary school. I am surprised that we now live in peace in our house” Wangbe said. With available food crops and a steady source of spending income the couple is a happy one in their locality and their children are healthy. “For me it is a miracle that we are living in peace,” Wangbe said.

The couple is thankful to Heifer International Cameroon for assisting them to find love and happiness. Their plans are to help others in their community find it, too.

Sustaining Animal Health with Plants

Mamma Bitang, is a Heifer International Cameroon resourceful farmer at the Noubou village in Moutourwa sub-division in Mayo Kani Division of the Far North Region of Cameroon. Mamma, mother of ten (6 boys and 4 girls) received relevant knowledge on treating animals with herbs through her Groupe d'Initiative Commune Wudmezle in 2009 during a Heifer International Cameroon sponsored training workshop on livestock rearing and donation. Mamma like other women in her group was offered a series of lessons on animal husbandry, gender equity, sanitation and hygiene and ethnoveterinary medicine. To strengthen the trainings each farm family was given 4 animals a ram and 3 sheep each in compensation of their loyalty to the teachings and prescriptions. Mamma had her share.

Before Heifer International Cameroon's gift of knowledge and animals to Mamma and her group, they kept a few animals locally and depended on veterinarian doctors for treatment. This was costly for the poor peasant farmers, whose only source of income was their farm out. Mamma retained the ethnoveterinary sensitization campaign as a best option of remembering her roots "When I was growing up, I saw my father using herbs to treat animals and the method was very effective" she said.

With little or no vet doctors present in those days Young Girls like Mamma saw herbal treatment of animals as a cultural practice but it soon died off with the passage of time. Heifer International Cameroon's drilling ignited the passion in the woman. "I do treat bloat in sheep with groundnut oil by giving the animal small quantity of the oil and in about six hours the stomach releases all the gas" Mamma said. Mamma treats diarrhea in sheep by giving the animal *Cassia occidentalis* (Kenkeliba) plants mixed in their feed. To sustain her treatment process the farmer has planted these plants around her family house for easy accessibility.

Mamma has passed on this gift of treatment with other community members. "Mamma's knowledge of animal treatment is very effective" Djouma Boukoi president of Groupe d'Initiative Commune des Djinandra, explained after applying the treatment procedures from Mamma to treat her animals of diarrhea. Mamma has been on hand for trainings within and beyond her community for the training of farmers on building animals health with plants and herbs. "I am happy to know that other farmers have learnt from me" she said. After receiving her animal from Heifer international Cameroon, the farmers has recorded only one death in a community where animals die on a daily bases. "I now have six sheep after selling one during the feast of the ram". Mamma said elatedly.

This woman knows when and what to give to a particular animal when it's sick. This experience has attracted other farmers to her and she is making a steady income from the treatment of animals. Mamma has also passed on the knowledge of treatment to her children and her animals have received proper care and management. She has used income for this venture to afford basic food crops for her family and her children school needs and medical bills. As Mamma's project continued to flourish she had extended a word of thank you to Heifer International Cameroon for stabilizing her animal welfare.

The Impact of Change Enhanced by a Snail Project

"In 2008, when my husband died, my in-laws drove me out of my family house refusing to recognize my first son as successor. With nine dependents to shelter, feed and clothe, I was left with nothing but daunting responsibilities to fulfill" Abey Rose 46, This widow and mother of five children (three boys and two girls) turned things around for herself and family when Heifer International Cameroon assisted her snail project through the Ambitious Women Common Initiative Group at Kake II in 2007, some 72 km from Buea the capital of the South West region of Cameroon.

Before benefitting from the Heifer International Cameroon assistance -Rose was living in grief and dejection. Her husband's drinking habit squandered the limited family resources. "Each time he laid hands on the -money, he squandered it with friends. We lived in debts. He even leased out our cocoa farm without my consent" Rose cried at the time. Rose and her kids were soaked in shame when the community made a public announcement denouncing her husband as an irresponsible father, from whom no one should attempt buying any piece of land. "This brought total humiliation on us" she wept at the time. Rose, her children farmed for a primary income, producing 300kg of corn, 550kg of yams, 1000kg cassava, and 150kg of plantains and 500kg of huckleberry. Though her husband made 700,000CFA from the marketing of cocoa beans, he managed the income alone in a way ward manner, leaving the education of the children in the hands of the wife. "We disagreed on several occasions but he did not change. God should forgive him." she cried then.

Rose was force to give farming her best but the poor harvest could not provide for her family any spending income. In 2008 life shot another storm in the life of Rose. Her husband nursed a complicated gastro intestinal illness and died months later.

Rose, her children were not only left with accrued debts to repay but life to battle with. "As if that was not enough, my in-laws ordered me to leave the house within the shortest time and instituted a legal suit against me" she lamented at the time. The widow and her children were given sanctuary by a Good Samaritan. Early 2006 Rose joined her group and the members learnt of Heifer International Cameroon through William Akemfor, a staff of the Ministry of Livestock fisheries and Animal Husbandry in Kumba that same year.

Lured by the gist, the Ambitious Women Common Initiative applied for assistance and was retained for a snail farming project that same year. Heifer International Cameroon assistance came first with a series of capacity building workshops on Heifer cornerstones for just and sustainable development, snail husbandry techniques, group dynamics and leadership, record keeping and sensitization on gender equity issues as well as HIV and AIDS.

In 2007, Rose and 19 others farm families were happy recipients of 1000snails each, improved corn seeds, yam setts, huckleberry seeds, wheelbarrow and sprayers each. Rose, wishing to add value to her farm work concentrated keenly. The results were noticeable two years down the line. Rose and her children produced corn from 300kg to 950kg, yams from 550kg to 700kg, cassava from 1000kg to 1500kg and huckleberry from 500kg to 750kg on

the same piece of land.” “In 2008, I sold snails for 30,000FCFA (\$67.1), corn for 150,000FCFA (\$335.5), yams for 66,000FCFA (\$147.6), huckleberry for 43,000FCFA (\$96.2). With this, I increased my small-scale business capital and started buying and selling cocoa. In 2009, I earned an annual income of 3,200,000FCFA (\$7,159.3) with 65% from cocoa, 20% from food crops, 13% from vegetables and 2% from snails. Most significantly this project enabled me to send my eldest son (Ndi Derik) to South Africa for further studies and complete the fees of my children worth 320,000FCFA on time. In addition, I started constructing my house and bought two hectares of land worth 650,000FCFA” -the widow narrated with joy. According to the treasurer of the group Mbah Bridget, the snail project catalyzed Rose to success, as she increased her farm output. “In fact, she is our reference of a successful woman in this community”. Bridget added. Rose and her children feed well and can afford food varieties of their choice with available income. Today there are healthy and have spending income for any emergency. According to the quarter head of the kake 11 village John Bisenge - Rose is a symbol of hard work and courage, “I knew Abey Rose years ago because people regularly reported her late husband to me” the chief said. Adding to that Rose was held in high esteem in the village for her devoted fight against poverty and women’s emancipation.

A mark of trust on Rose was her nomination as the treasurer and president of the Christian Women Fellowship of Presbyterian Church of Cameroon at Kake II, and the Batibo Women Association Kake II branch respectively. Abey Rose is also the president of the Ambitious Women Common Initiative Group, a position she has held for years today.

Rose has provided employment to some 15 youths in her community. These youths work on her cocoa farms and earn income with which to cater for their basic needs. Tibuck Ebenezer is one of them and is elated to earn a monthly wage of 25,000FCFA (\$55.9). “With this, I feed myself and provide for my daily needs” Ebenezer said. The boy plans to start his own snail and cocoa farming project, with skills gained from Rose’s farms.

In keeping to the Heifer International Cameroon commandments of pass on the gift, Rose fulfilled the pledge in 2008. She had also shared knowledge and her experience with ESE na ESE Women’s Group, Unity Women Association at Baduma. “In a bid to enhance caring and sharing, I shared 16 dresses, 4 pair of shoes and 25kg of yams with orphans, widows and needy families at Mamfe road during this festive period” the widow said. Abey Rose had since expanded to poultry farming and the marketing of cocoa beans.

“Heifer International Cameroon assistance transformed me to a good leader, business manager, snail farmer, and an advocate of gender equity and youth employment” Rose said. Rose and her Ambitious Women Common Initiative Group members, extended sincere thanks to Heifer International Cameroon and her partners for contributing to improve their lives.

Crying for Water

The Story of the Lake Chad River Basin.
Where Policy had Failed!

The lake chad river basin is up of Chad with a surface area of I million square miles around it, including the far north region of Cameroon home to some 6 million people, Since this once might in “land sea’s”- lake Chad shrunk by 90% in the 1970’s this region has become one of the poorest regions of the world. Yet even as the Lake Chad shrunk, the population of the region grew. An estimated 37million people now live here, many of whom migrated recently from the Sahel region just to the north where Arid land is turning in to desert The combination of disappearing resources and the increasing demand is making an already fragile poor region even poorer. Crop production has fallen as water becomes very increasingly scarce.

THE BASIC RESOURCES

In the far north region of Cameroon all the river beds have dried off and the food crops on the farm fields have turned in to dry sticks in the sand dunes. As families try to make the most of the scanty resources women and children trek long distances crying for water. The grazing of livestock and the destruction of the forest for fuel wood advances the encroachment of the desert. This year the dry season has extended to seven months and only three bags of grain and millet can be a family’s source of primary income and three square meals in a year. This bad situation is becoming precarious as the farmers plant too much food crops and too densely on the same pieces of land. This is killing and exhausting the soils. The sad story is that agricultural output has fallen in the Lake Chad river basin even as the climate changes put an already fragile situation to a mess. The story of the Lake Chad basin is exactly what scientist have being echoing worldwide. This is a simple eulogy in response to the climate changes, the unsustainable land use systems, lack of water and forest destruction. As one tour the far north region of Cameroon, the land is fast turning in to a desert as the inhabitation live in near famine conditions

THE EVIDENCE

Change in the Lake Chad basin is constant and the people who made their homes are learning to make the most of this with the available resources around. They farm and harvest their crops in the extreme conditions, sometimes following the rainy season which is always uncertain. This year the rainy season has skipped to seven months from November to June with a dry and very dusty weather. According to the farmers in the far north region of Cameroon the Lake Chad basin flooded regularly in history providing fertile soils for the subsistent farmers in the area. But because of it extreme shallow nature the Lake fluctuated dramatically making the farming activities in the basin and area uncertain. The Global International Waters Assessment in a study of the region published by the United Nations said the Lake changed from short and back again to its original size. The fisher men off the shores chased this shifting pattern.

As time is passing, this irregular pattern has witnessed another story. The Sahel region which covers the basin right up to the north of Sahara is drying out and in the last 30 years the UN in a report said the Lake Chad basin area has attracted “the most substantial and sustained decline in rain fall measured anywhere in the world today” this is blamed to the rising ocean temperatures leading to global warming. As the Sahel is drying down many of the people

who are nomads are chasing the south of the basin in search of arid land. But as the lake shrunk the rainy season is fading out as well. As the population in the basin is growing and its climate is changing, the locals are striving to make the most of the limited resources available in the region and to control the disappearing resources.

The normal life out there is not ease as the farmers struggle to adjust with the shifting river beds. When the lake flooded large scale of agricultural production took place in the area but today sand dunes have taken over the farm fields, some projects to irrigate farm land instead drain away fertile wetland. As the stream were diverted, farming along the basin diminished and with the plant cover the temperatures in the soils raised and rain fall evaporated swiftly and erosion took place. Scientific reports say the lost of vegetative ground has led to the loss of the monsoons. As the mismanagement of the land by the desperate poor is increasing, the vegetation is also lost. Animals too graze and the local haunt fuel wood and the fertility of the land is lost as the farmers farm too densely over and over again and with the high economic development around the basin agricultural production has fallen.

As one tours the region farm land and roads are buried under sand dunes and as the people strive for more in nothing, the basin is prone to violence. Many villagers tussle for water resources and grazing field. And for many people daily life is changing as violence is also encroaching. In the Nigerian section of the Lake entire villages are buried under sand dunes as the desert extends south wards and many people are becoming “environmental refugees”. In the near by Darfur Sudan this situation has reached crisis proportions as at least 200,000 died since civil war broke out there in 2003.

The United Nations secretary general Koffi Anan called it “no accident” that the violent in Darfur erupted during the drought in the Sahel where precipitation has declined 40% since the 1980’s and he attributed strife in Burkina Faso, Somalia and the Ivory coast to a “similar volatile mix of and water insecurity”. A development organization Heifer International Cameroon is helping the villages in the far north region of Cameroon to make the most of the resources on the ground. Farmer organizations are taught simple ways of pasture establishment, animal management and other ways of improving nutrition and hygiene in their homes.

The knowledge most of these groups are earning is key to the development of their lives and homes. Mama Bitang has awakened her life and that of her family with 9 dependents. This widow has fought poverty too well with Heifer donated animals (sheep) and mentoring through her Femmes Ambiteuses common initiative group. Unfortunately this stitch in time is not enough as the means is limited. People who live in this basin are seeing little or no benefits from international efforts to help them.

In 2008 an international organization Global Environment Facility mapped out a 20 yr plan as a start to a revolution to reforests the land and change water diversion policies in the area but the task has being too slow. According to Heifer International Cameroon only 3% of household in the far north region of Cameroon with 6 million people have access to potable water. AS an urgent remedy is sort, the efforts to institute broad base policies is not helping at all, because the basin is fragmented by controversial policies laid down by the different governments around the Lake basin and the unnecessary numerous tribal conflicts with the inhabitants who are mostly nomads’ in search of water and hope either by tradition or necessity have made it hard to forge a comprehensive plan for the region.. {The Lake Chad Basin is occupied by the following countries Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ivory

Coast, Congo and Central African Republic} With limited means or infrastructures, information dissemination is poor making it a challenging task to educate people on the issues at stake and to introduce broad base policies . And despite the best efforts of a community that depends on one another, it remains difficult to overcome the stultifying effects of the droughts. And who doubts that Violence erupts where resources are scanty.

The Bambungo Annual Dance

Melting Pot of Artistic Culture in the Grass Field of Cameroon

The 2500 people that make up the Bambungo community in the Ngokentujia Division of the North West region of Cameroon all throng their Fon's palace plaza for an annual cultural festival named Kekai 2012 which lasted for three weeks under theme "violence is a poor substitute to intelligence" last feb 2012..

The festival which held in three main phases started with the appeasement of the gods of the land by the offering of traditional scarifies in the form of animals and words. The next step featured a display by the most dreaded juju masquerades of the community and out door dancing festivities by the various gender and social mobilization forces in that community for one week. The last most crucial stage of the event was the Fon dance; the most popular celebrated dance in that community led by the traditional ruler HRH Ndufuoa Zufor the 11.

A characterization of the dance was the spreading and throwing of planting seeds in the climax of the dance by the Fon as a way of launching the farming season in the community. The rush for the seeds by the community members added glamour and grandeur to the dance.

The Bambungo annual traditional cultural festival also provides space for the people of the Bambungo community from afar and near to forge a common goal and to rekindle their traditional and cultural heritage. The Bambungo's in the grass field of Cameroon are renowned for their mastery of the carving and brass work. Artifacts bearing the various cultural aspects of the people's life style, fashion and history are displayed at the Fon palace plaza as a sign of strength and pride.

The Kekai 2012 annual dance welcomed Bambungo friends from around the world. The main food crops produced in the area are corn, cassava, beans and plantain.

The Pupils, Students and Staff of the Bambungo

Integrated Mental Health Care {BIMEHC} Welcomed CAT -Cameroon and its Volunteers Admist Songs and Dance.

The conference hall of the Bambungo Integrated Mental Health Care (BIMHC) in the Ngokentujia division of the North West Region of Cameroon Feb, 20th 2012 was jammed to full capacity as the pupils and students and their parents who had come to welcome the CAT team sang in dance and joy to the honor of their guest.

The pupils had congregated from the Catholic school Bambungo, and the students from Government secondary school, Government high school, Government technical school and Star comprehensive college Bambungo under the BIMHC educational scholarship scheme offered by the center.

In a welcomed address to their August guests the director of the center Tumenta John said it was a dream came true for their pupils, students and their parents to have CAT Cameroon and its volunteers at their center. Mr. John told the center supported students and pupils that the event called for vigilance because it was a great learning exchange experience for them on renewable energy and environmental protection. John thanked CAT Cameroon for choosing his institution and for respecting the partnership to friendship and collaboration.

The BIMHC boss told CAT Cameroon and its volunteers that his center was providing financial support and material to some 92 students and pupils from 6 different institutions in their community chosen from under privilege homes thanks to the financial contributions of friends of BIMHC in the Diaspora and home. Mr. John prayed CAT Cameroon and its volunteers the best and his students and pupils a rewarding learning experience.

Bambungo Integrated Mental Health Care (BIMHC)

Making Strides in the Treatment of Mental Patients in Cameroon and Beyond.

The Bambungo Integrated Mental Health Care (BIMHC) was an initiative of the late legendary late pa Mathias Tumenta in 1957. The late renowned traditional medical practitioner rehabilitated and treated mentally impaired patients in Cameroon with natural herbs. The success of the practice brought about the idea to create an integrated modern and traditional mental health care center. As pa Mathias struggled with the idea, his death a few years on was almost a blow to the initiative.

By Good luck after Mathias' death, his son who had followed him closely in the art and practice buttressed the ideas, thanks to the support of a voluntary service overseas expert that the institution was legalized as the Bambungo Integrated Mental Health Care (BIMHC) in 2003. At the time John had also trained as a diploma nurse. Like a legendary bird that had grown from its own ashes, BIMHC steadily carved a niche for itself over the years. To day the center which operates with John Tumenta as the CEO has three main programs with focus on modern, traditional mental and primary health care services. This method combines modern and traditional medicine to treat mentally impaired patients in Cameroon. Under the primary health care facet of the program is the education of underprivileged children in the society thanks to funds from external sources.

The BIMHC center is the only lone private owned health care center in Cameroon authorized to manage and rehabilitate mentally impaired patients in Cameroon. This institution has also linked up with a German organization to provide certification for some of its natural drugs.

According to the Director of the center each year over 500 mentally impaired patients are rehabilitated at the center from far and wide with the globe on ranging mental challenges. Volunteers under VSO have seen BIMHC as a force of attraction for research on the strengths and weaknesses of the African traditional medicine. The Bambungo Integrated Mental Health Care center has a big natural botanic garden with over 25 rare species of planted African traditional herbs and medicinal plants.

The Bamenda Royal University

Goes Operational with an Open Door Event

A symbolic event to mark the start of the Bamenda Royal University took place at the Alankie Village of Mankon Bamenda on the 16th of Feb. 2012 Under the auspices of the north west regional delegate of Arts and Culture Mme Achua Sheila.

The founder of the Bamenda Royal University HRH Majesty Ambassador Simon Nsoh while addressing the public on the occasion said the university project was hatched to provide an opportunity for Cameroonians to improve on their lives and families. HRH Nsoh Simon elaborated the dream of the university as unique and one that would thrive on cooperative ideas. He said the university would operate from two locations and would take appropriate measures to follow the rules and regulations laid down by the Cameroon ministry of higher education. The founder called on the administration and the people of Mankon and Cameroon at large to put all hands on deck and make the dream come to fruition. The high point of the speech was the installation of the pioneer chair of the university board of governors and vice chancellor Prof Norbert Pintsch of the German Senior Expert Service and the Society for the Advancement of Culture.

Reacting to the founder of the university, the North West regional delegate of Arts and Culture Mme Achua Sheila appreciated the efforts of HRH Majesty Simon Nsoh and the people of Alankie community for initiating and piloting the university project. The delegate called on the residence to shun exclusive tendencies and to strive as one body. She called for hard and determination to make the dream of the university come to life. The dean of studies for the department of Appropriate Technology and Director of CAT Cameroon Njini Victor stole the event as he exhibited with a solar panel that people in the rural areas as well as in Alankie could do without AES Sonel. Victor said solar energy was cheap and affordable for people in the rural areas. To the pupils of government primary school Alankie who had come to witness the event the CAT boss took them in a demonstrative lesson that solar energy and other alternative forms of energy were the hope of people like little income and earnings. He called on the pupils to make environment protection a priority. Victor said the technology was illustrative of the ability and academic program of the department of Appropriate Technology in the Royal University. The installed solar plate and its equipment were donated to the Royal University project.

The German born volunteers animated the event with drills and songs amidst great euphoria. The exchange of gifts between the founder of the university project and the volunteers cemented and spoke of a lasting friendship. The event was attended by notables of the Alankie village, pupils of Government primary school Alankie, elite of the community and the Regional Delegate of Arts and Culture.

A Lobbying and Advocacy Organization for the Development of the Oku Sub Division in the North West Region has been Formed and Named the Oku Opinion

A Lobbying and advocacy organization for the development of the Oku sub division in the North West Region has been formed and named the Oku Opinion leaders Association. The association which has as its task to support Government action in the general interest of the Oku people world wide void of partisan lines, ensure the security and safety of government structures and officials sent to Oku and to forge meaningful alliances for the socio economic development of Oku sub division was created last Feb 24th 2012 at Elak Oku with Mr. Kenkoh Emmanuel as pioneer coordinator.

Before the formation of this association, the development of Oku Sub division had been thwarted by political wrangling and power tussle by its top elite and politicians for many years. The subtext for this was unmistakable- the poor execution of public contracts in the area, juvenile delinquency, food insecurity and backbiting and rumor mongering. In this meeting that congregated both the SDF and CDPM top militants and elderly intellectuals, some controversial political figures and petition writers, the brain child of the lobby and advocacy group Kenkoh Emmanuel a teacher by training called on the participants to bury their personal differences and to work for the peace and development of the Oku Sub division. Mr. Kenkoh said a fog of guilt and hostility weighed over Oku because of ill faith, bad blood and selfishness. According to Emmanuel this led to a long standing bad socio political history which seemed to have worked extremely very hard to kill the prosperity and unity of the Sub division.

Reflecting on the words of Kenkoh Emmanuel and the way forward for Oku, the participants and politicians unanimously agreed that a lot of bitter experiences had taught Oku lessons which saw an out burst in petition writing and unpleasant social unrest. One by one the elite said it was a dream come true to seat as one man and to bury rancor and discord. To give themselves courage, the participants remembered in a minute of silence those who had jumped out of the world before them and in a fitting tribute to their commitment and a moving demonstration of love for Oku took a strong worded resolution to work only for the interest of Oku sub division. A five man committee was elected to nurse the association with Hon. Fai Mbuh Yang Daniel and SN Tamfu Wambeng as resource persons with the D.O for Oku, Mayor Ngum Jerome, and MP Kwei Andrew Mngo as advisers.

It is still very early to apprehend what challenges may rock the Oku Opinion Leaders

Association but only fears for a financial vulnerability could bring the association to its knees. The first big responsibility of the pioneer team will be therefore to initiate dialogue between the various political divides in the Sub division so that development can bear. Nonetheless the association according to skeptics has to be ambitious enough to know that the entire Oku sub division needs good road infrastructures, social amenities and to amend the tainted image of the Sub division that has been presented to neighboring tribes and the world in caricature form.

The Afoakom Statue!

Emblem of a People's Identity

Afo-A-Kom is a carved wooded statue used annually by Kom inhabitants, for ceremonial purposes at Laikom the seat of the Kwyfon, the secret Kom mobilization force in Boyo Division of the North West region of Cameroon. Afo-A-Kom literally translated means something that belongs to Kom people and land, promoting the ideals of solidarity and social stability; love, hospitality, unity, diversity tolerance; and of justice and sovereignty and a powerful symbol of continuity. These two Royal standing human form made statues has a female considered as the mother of the queen and a royal wife holding a baton in front of the chest and lined with cowries at the head supported by buffalo heads. The male statue depicts the reverence of the Royal family and is a portrait of Fon Yuh the first well known legendary leader of the Koms. The Afoakom statue is beaded in red and blue for unity and diversity of the vast Kom land and its people. The Koms see it as the strength of their heritage and authority.

The statue was made at about 1865 by Fon Yuh, the 7th ruler of Kom.

And by ill fate one of the attendants stole it out from its hiding and sold to outsiders and it was ferried to Douala through Foumban and next to New York City in August 1966. During the absence of the statue it is believed that calamity failed on the kom land and a fog of guild and curses hang on the people. A lot of people are reported to have died from epidemics and natural disasters. This necessitated the finding of the Statue which the people considered the source of their problems. Search teams around Cameroon and the world finally got relief when a missionary pastor who had photographed the portrait of the statue saw it in a New York exhibition gallery. The Fon of Kom at the time is known to have pledge all the money in the Kom land for its return. The Afoakom statue while in the USA was shuttling between museums and bazaars not only as a lost ritualistic symbol of the Kom people but like a commercial commodity. Thanks to good diplomacy between the Cameroon government and the US embassy in Yaounde that the statue was returned to Kom 7 years later. The arrival of the statue was heralded by all night dancing and gun firing at the fons palace plaza where the people of koms played the wildest xylophone music tones in memory of the event. The return of the statue and the controversial history and tales associated with it brought elated the Kom culture and tradition to international people.

Kom is traditionally divided into 43 villages. The villages make up the kingdom and compounds or homesteads make up the villages. The villages are grouped into traditional councils for administrative purposes with each village governed by a village Head appointed by the Fon.

The origin of Kom is not known but according to oral tradition, Kom people came to settle in their present day location after being led by a track of a python.

Bamenda Cameroon

An Exceptional Destination for Hand Made Crafts

Bamenda is one of Cameroon's 3rd largest cities with a steady population growth as a result of urbanization and rural exodus. Unlike most Cameroon cities Bamenda is reputed for lack of industries and plantations. Despite the high level of the scholarisation in the city 30% of the city youths are without white collar jobs. In a bid to make ends meet most of these youths have taken up crafts arts and design as a profession. The availability of wood and natural low cost material like grass, bamboos, fiber and special beat has seen the city youths producing crafts ranging from bags, baskets, chairs, caps and cupboards etc. some of these Crafts like bags carry message of love and unity and are insignia of cultural heritage and pride

These crafts portray not only the rich vast traditional cultures of the grass field of Cameroon in color, styles and design play an important part in the decoration of the city streets and handicraft shops. Wood works also occupy a major pre occupation of the youth. Carpentry workshops line the main streets in the city and provide a source of income for the boys. Carves made in the best of traditional cultures like mask and foot tools float the city handicraft shops and carry with them the strengths and inspiration of the respective designers. These crafts have remained a tourist attraction for the city.

These crafts which are now a source of hope and joy for the youths in these sector preserve the not only the artistic know how of the people of the grass field of Cameroon but sustain the various cultures. The high demand for the products and the importance of the forest and nature has seen the high cost of protecting the environment by the government and the local people.

It is on this effort that the Cameroon government is calling on the citizens of the country to sustain and protect the environment and forest home to these natural resources that boast and foster the socio economic and cultural development of the youth and country at large.

CAT Cameroon and its Volunteers

The learning community of the Baptist comprehensive college Nkwen Bamenda has pledged to continuously keep their environment neat and to manage waste in a sustainable manner. The principal of the institution Mr Bominang Eugene made the recommendation last Feb, 14th 2012 on behalf of his students and colleagues on the occasion of an open door day organized by CAT Cameroon in collaboration with two German visiting volunteers Lutz and Renate from the German Senior Expert Service under the theme youths for a better environment.

In a brief lecture to the students during the event, the director of the Center for Appropriate Technology Njini Victor thanked the BCC student community for accepting to share with them the benefits of sustaining and protecting the environment. Victor appreciated the staff for embracing their wish to talk to the students about renewable forms of energy that was a solution to the needs of people in the rural areas. He further explained to the students that the role of CAT Cameroon was to promote and provide solar energy plates and low cost building material so as to maximize the protection of the environment and nature. In a question and answer session on what could be done to protect the environment the students said tree planting, pollution control and proper waste disposal were the solutions. Talking on the advantages of solar energy Victor told the students that it was cheap and affordable as well as efficient for house lighting and cooking. The CAT director laid the students through a demonstrative exhibition on how solar plates trap energy for storage and usage.

In response to the lectures and demonstration the principal of the school Mr Bomingang Eugene said that they were over whelmed with joy and excitement to be part of the CAT open door project. Mr Eugene thanked the CAT director and his volunteers for thinking about them for the second time running in the knowledge sharing campaign on appropriate technology. The school boss called on his students to keep the knowledge and to be custodians of environmental protection in school and off the classroom. He pledged to make appropriate technology lesson a compulsory course for those students of the technical department of his institution.

The CAT volunteers from Germany Lutz and Renate animated the event with musical drills and comic displays to the excitement of the students. The gift of a football to the students by the volunteers brought thunderous applause in the hall. In appreciation to the gift and sketches, the student's senior prefect said the lessons as well as the sketches and ball were very significant not only for their entertainment but learning process. The senior student thanked CAT and the volunteers for thinking about them every year and for working to improve the lives of people in the semi urban centers and in the rural communities.

The Baptist Comprehensive College Nkwen Bamenda has some 176 students enrolled in to the three learning departments of the school. (Commercial, Grammar and Technical.)

CAT Cameroon-Blossoms at 10

The year 2011 marked ten years of existence for the Center for appropriate technology CAT Cameroon. The center and the wish to provide handicrafts and low cost energy alternative sources to the rural people in Cameroon saw the light of day in 2001 in Bamenda Cameroon under the diadem of the present Director Njini Victor. This dream shifted gear when the center came in contact with the Prof Norbert Pintsch and Dr Senta Siller of the German Senior Expert Service SES and the German Society for the Advancement of Culture DGFK in those early days. This partnership has delivered capacity building, mentoring and material support to the CAT Staff through Prof Pintsch over the years.

The need to create awareness on its activities saw CAT negotiating unprecedented cooperation with many institutions of learning in the North West region of Cameroon to expand the knowledge and was able to make alliances with an array of people across the society to market its goods and services.

Ten years down the line the untold success story of CAT in the domain of affordable renewable energy has been unparalleled. The center is a proud owner of more than ten awards and prizes won through competitions and workshops organized by the Cameroon government as a befitting tribute to his achievement and hard work. The center for appropriate technology prides itself with a vast rich digital equipment laboratory, computers, books and workshops and exhibition stands reason why the institution is the best option to research students and local community members interested in improving their knowledge and skills on renewable energy sources and handmade dolls.

A team of volunteers from the German Senior Expert Service are annually visiting CAT to create awareness in schools and colleges on environmental protection and sustainability, climate change, holistic approach to housing construction and handicrafts. Hand made dolls produced in CAT have not only sourced cash for low income young girls and women in some community in Cameroon but have helped to market the cultures traditions of the Grass field of Cameroon across the borders.

As the months roll in to more years the Center for Appropriate Technology CAT Cameroon intends to expand its existing scope to other regions of Cameroon.

CAT Cameroon Installs a Mini Solar Hydro Electrical Power

in the Akwaya Municipality in the South West Region of Cameroon.

The Center for Appropriate Technology CAT Cameroon under the 2012 Cameroon government investment budget will installed a mini solar hydro electric power in the Akwaya council area of the south west region of Cameroon. The electrical power will generate low cost energy for the council area tele center and other government structures in the divisional head quarters. The Project piloted by the Akwaya council is executed with funds from the 2012 investment budget. The low cost energy will boast life and economic activities in Akwaya sub division which faces a plethora of challenges brought in by lack of a good road infrastructure and communication net work.

Travelers to Akwaya from other parts of Cameroon must go through Nigeria before getting there. The very bad nature of the roads and the many multiple notorious police checks points give passenger's headache, some times leading to the exchange of hot air and street fights. Akwaya sub division may also enter the Guinness book of record as the place in the world today which has a total black out in communication net work. Some reports say residence have to climb a tree a certain top before access communication net work. The municipality is the bread basket of the south west region of Cameroon and other parts of Nigeria but the lack of a road to connect to these places leaves the locals very misery and poor. Illiteracy and ignorance is also high in the area because of basic well equipped learning institutions. Letters from there to the outside world are done by hand and sent by mail.

People in the Akwaya area have never seen an electronic money transfer agency. Residence of the municipality throng a lone tele center communication to send messages out of the land locked area. Even government structures are non functional in the municipality due to lack of power and energy to run their reports. A lot of professional work is still done manually with type writers and by hand making effectiveness and efficiency lost. The tussle between the SDF and the CPDM to host the council in this area has brought in more frustrations. The people because of their plight have vowed never to vote for the ruling party but their choice of the SDF has brought no changes yet.

The teaching of ICT's in school out there has never been thought of. Most students and residence of the area see ICT's gadgets only when they travel to other areas of the country or on papers. The construction of this mini hydro solar energy plate will also provide energy for the revitalization of the government services often empty for lack of workers who take pretext that there is no energy to run the equipment. The excitement in the Akwaya sub division is high ahead of the proper inauguration of the solar energy plate. The director of CAT Cameroon Njini Victor has mobilized a crack team of technicians to see this dream came true.

CAT Cameroon Drills Technical Students in Bamenda

on the occasion of the 2012 edition of the technical education open door day in Cameroon

The atmosphere was serene at the campus of the government technical high school in Bamenda march 15th 2012 as the technical education stakeholders in Cameroon under the distinguished minister of secondary education Louis Bapes Bapes launched the 2012 technical education open door day in Cameroon under the theme "window to a pedagogy of excellence".

Speaking to the students and partners of technical education in Cameroon, the minister of secondary education Louis Bapes Bapes said the occasion provided an opportunity for technical education schools to exhibit their production capacities and to proof that their graduates will be self reliant after leaving high school. The education boss exalted the staff and students of the various technical schools in Bamenda to double their efforts and to work hard at giving technical education a successful output at end of course examinations in Cameroon.

In a welcome address to the minister the minister and his delegation the government delegate to the Bamenda city council Vincent Nji Ndumu thanked the government for choosing GTHS Bamenda to commemorate the event. Mr Nji called on the minister to developed technical education to its fullest in the city and region at large so as to guarantee jobs and self reliant development for the youth.

During a visit to one of the various exhibition stands by the minister, his entourage and student population the director of CAT Mr. Njini Victor a partner of technical education in Cameroon showcased a solar energy plate and posited to the minister and his entourage that solar energy was cheap, efficient and affordable for schools and students studying in the rural and land locked areas of Cameroon. The director of CAT told the minister that ICT's were alien to most technical schools in Cameroon due to lacked of access of energy and appealed to the minister to make good use of solar energy devices as an alternative.

According to Victor solar energy can do students volumes of cooking and frying, baking and heating in a relatively no time and at no cost. The minister thanked Mr. Victor for his CAT demonstrations and said it was a stepping stone to lighting up Cameroon in the nearest future. The award of prizes to some deserving and hard working institutions and students by the ministry marked the high points of the day. A phalanx of traditional dance groups were at hand to grace the occasion with the best sounds and colours.

CAT Hand Made Dolls! An Icing on the Cake

The handicraft section at the Center for Appropriate Technology (CAT) brought forth the doll making project in 1998 under the supervision of Dr Senta Siller of the Germany Senior Expert Service. That same year a self help women's initiative group called Akwatinuighah with 9 members located in the depths of the Mankon community in Bamenda Cameroon picked on the idea and over the years transferred and shared this knowledge with another self help group called Akaankang in the year 2002. The idea spread like wild fire amongst many women self help groups in the North West Region of Cameroon.

The dolls making project was hatched to provide another entertaining alternative way for rural women and young girls in the communities to earn income and shun urban migration and other social vices that were detrimental to themselves and families.

These dolls made out of ethnic knowledge have garments, Jewries and furniture for the needling of attractive marketable dolls in a family friendly way depicting the life, fashion and color of the people and places of the grass fiend of Cameroon. While helping these women to boast the local development of the communities and traditions, the project also imbued in them craft art skills.

The Dolls produced at CAT range from 50CM to 12CM and are sold at 3-30US Dollars. In Bamenda Cameroon these dolls can be accessed at the Prescraft center and handicraft shops and at the German embassy in Yaounde Cameroon and the Seaman Mission in Douala in Cameroon. Dr Senta from DGFK, too, had also helped to market the dolls in bazaars and events across the Atlantic. Also available at on the shelves are post cards designed with the portraits of the various traditional instruments in the grass field of Cameroon.

These post cards bear so many entertaining messages and description about these traditional musical instruments that translate the traditions and customs of the Cameroon people. The cards are made out of environmentally friendly paper that can be recycled for further use.

CAT Cameroon Plays Host to Volunteers from the DGFK

Two volunteers from the German society for the advancement of culture (DGFK) Lutz Fluegge and Renate Perner on a cultural exchange program are in Cameroon on the invitation of the Center for Appropriate Technology CAT-Cameroon. The two volunteers are gifted entertainers who are assisting CAT –Cameroon on its knowledge sharing campaigns on alternative sources of energy and the importance of solar energy to households in the rural areas of Cameroon, low cost building materials and the need to sustain and protect the environment.

Lutz and Renate have accompanied CAT to schools, villages, and institutions to share knowledge on the above topics and to bring aspects of German culture closer to the people of the North West Region through song and dance. The high point of their visit was the organization of a tombola and puzzle at the CAT head office last Feb 18th 2012 which pulled across section of the public. Lots of prizes and gifts were won by some people in the audience.

Lutz Fluegge is the Dean of studies in the faculty of Cultural entertainment and development while Mme Renate Perner is the Vice Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the Bamenda Royal University.

This is the third conservative time the two volunteers are in Cameroon.

Media and Rural Development in Cameroon

The Oku Community Radio Operator Who Won a Canadian Award

Aaron Kaah of the Voice of Oku, a Rural Radio Station in the North West region was declared winner of the 2005 Canadian George Atkins Communications Award by the board of directors of the Developing Countries Farm Radio Network (DCFRN) in Ottawa in the Summer of June 2006.

Aaron had been broadcasting with the FM 95.2 Oku Rural Radio for three years during which period he had contributed actively to networking programs of the DCFRN grouping, which involves some 350 community radio stations in developing countries.

One hundred and fifty of the rural radio stations are located in the Central African region, notably Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Cameroon alone is host to 56 community rural radio stations and organizations networking with DCFRN, coordinated from Ottawa, Canada.

These stations broadcast in over 45 local languages. The Voice of Oku broadcasts in the local vernacular, Oku, and Pidgin English and English.

In the Central African profile analysis by DCFRN. James Achanyi-Fontem of Cameroon Link has the most durable partnership of 20 years in networking activities. He won the George Atkins Prize in 1996. Aaron Kaah YANCHO's case makes Cameroon the only country to have qualified twice for the competition. The broadcast programs produced by the DCFRN partners, according to a survey carried out in 2003, are largely concentrated on health, child development, agriculture, nutrition, environmental protection, gender equality and youth behavior change communication.

The Developing Countries Farm Radio Network or Farm Radio International was created by the retired Canadian radio broadcaster, George Atkins, and the annual communication award was initiated in his honor after his determination to assist developing countries in the fight against poverty, hunger, and illiteracy, when he gave the coordination of the network activities to younger dynamic broadcasters and researchers.

The Science of Tradition

The African continent is a sprawling landscape inhabited by a wide species of living creatures. In West Africa most of these creatures like snakes and other vertebrates have found water ponds, lakes, rocks, and rivers as a safe heaven to breed. Many species of snakes make of high make a high percentage of Cameroon's extinct mammal due to poaching and the loss of land to development and farm land. Very few institutions are working to conserve this endangered species of mammals. One man who has distinguished himself as a passionate lover of these frightful creatures is Dr Nfon Bime Leonard.

For close to decade running Dr Nfon Bime Leonard Tanyi who by his won right is a prolific renowned traditional doctor is known to be the only Cameroon who has mastered the art of taming and domesticating snakes popular among them pythons with his bear human hands and ticks for posterity and other reasons.. Very much familiar with the habitat of these snakes and their medical traditional usages to the utter disbelief of the public he has been to many Lakes in the country in search of these mammals..

Known through out Africa Dr Nfon came to the limelight at an early age when he dropped out of primary school in his native Noni village of Bui Division in the North West Region of Cameroon to pursue a dream in traditional healing and practice. Like an actor whose dreams seem to ring true, the locals found favor in Nfon who used supernatural powers to dictate the presence of snakes in what ever medium there were hiding. With the use of mystical cam wooded sticks to disable his catch for domestication the community only saw in the lad a kind of curiosity that will later on take them by storm in the future.

Today Dr Nfon Tanyi Leonard is the president of the North West traditional doctors Association in Cameroon of west Africa and his friendship with snakes has taken him through out Africa, India and USA .In the year 2000 the Cameroon government issued a certificate of recognition to this 70yr old man legalizing and authorizing him to trap and domesticate snakes in this country that were already an endangered species.

According to Dr Nfon, most Lakes in the grass field of Cameroon harbor snakes of mysterious sizes and colors. One of them Lakes Awing is one of Cameroon mountainous lakes that keeps red mambas, cobra, and pythons and a four horned chameleon. According to this man "it not good to attack snakes or fish in certain lakes" because these creatures are like human being leaving in a world of their own and act like village gods.

Dr Nfon has been using the enzymes locally extracted from these snakes to treat madness, cerebral malaria, witch craft and bareness in men and women. It is also confirmed that Dr Nfon uses his catch to settle scores with his enemies or to quell discord in his community and neighboring villages. He has used a snake to identify a thief in a burglary case when he mysteriously ordered it to go bite the victim or by appearing on his bed. People who feel cheated or violated have sorted the intervention of Dr Nfon to have the snakes bite their oppressors.

It can not be explained how Dr Nfon is trapping snakes with his bear hands alive without any

scientific device and how these dangerous creatures are able to dance to the dictates of their new master. In 2008 he reared over 480 different species of snakes caught from different locations across Africa. But this traditional practitioner has a big problem, “his spirit is incompatible with flying objects, he can not board a plane, according to him the plane stands a high risk of crashing. Over the years the man has turned down several travel opportunities from researchers and his foreigner’s partners in the western world. Though the traditional healer accepts to go on foot across the most dangerous roads streams and lakes in search of his prey in West Africa, his snakes are only stored and reared in a well sealed third world looking suitcase in the dark corner of his living bedroom.

Asked if ever threatened by a snake he replies, “one time I caught a snake wearing three cowries from a lake and offered it to a tourist at a cash price of one million but spent a long night after the offer,,,,,a secret mask and juju danced in my roof all night long compelling me to reinstate the snakes back in its dwelling place the lake and my life was spared.” It not also known how Dr Nfon swims the depth of these unsafe Lakes without safety wears and how he manages the wide variety of snakes at his disposal. As optimistic as he is, Dr Nfon Bime Leonard Tanyi sales these creatures which he feeds with local food crops cultivated in his farms. His Children know their Dad depends on this risky venture source an income for their emergency spending and for them to put food on the table. With time only research students and scholars will be able to say for sure how the healer is going about this without risking his life or that of his family.

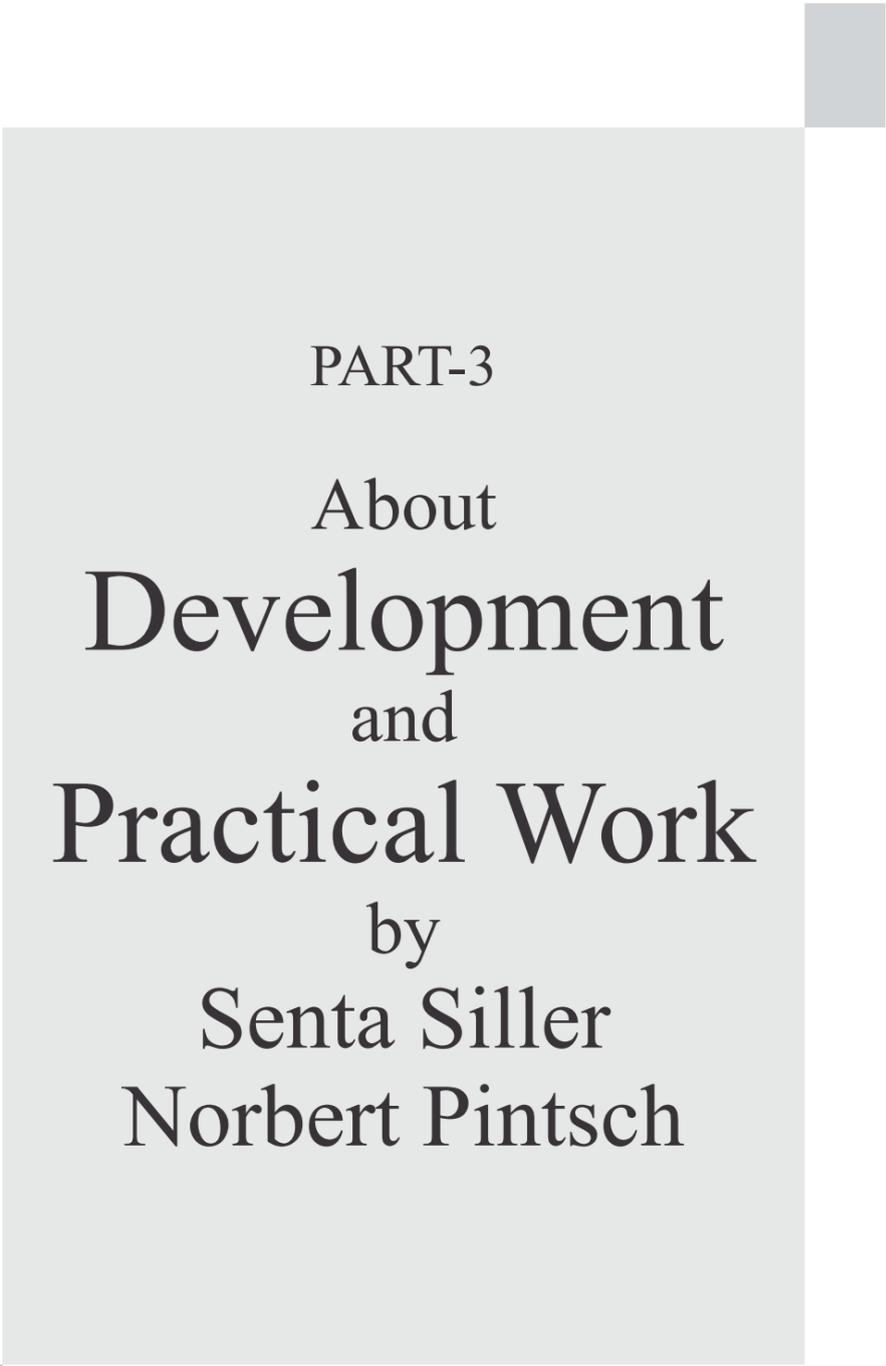
Wood Carving - An Old Age Tradition of the Oku People

Wood carving is known to be an inspirational art that has celebrated the traditional culture of the Oku people from time immemorial. Carving as an art and profession is known to have been introduced in this tribe by the legendary pioneer Fon of the Fondom Mnkong Moteh who himself was carver. Oral history says he had preserved the traditional culture of the Oku’s in this artifacts that featured Juju mask, door frames and pillars, foot stools and animals heads, chairs and human mask. These artifacts were used for ritual and sacrificial purposes and were sometimes polished with cam wood and oil and presented to the local village gods as gifts and presents. The art in itself was considered sacred and an inspiration from the gods of the land, reason why Women were never allowed to see the art performed or the carves displayed in open air. Many carving sites were protected from the view of women and strangers. It was seen as a sacrilege if a woman went in to these carving sites.

Only particular traditionally anointed carvers were supposed to produce certain artifacts and their first crafts were taken to the Palace as a sign of paying allegiance to the gods of the land. Carves meant for public viewing like doors frames, pots and chairs were therefore ordained through a ritual feast with the blood of fowls to allow them being kept in public places. Juju mask and masquerades were seen as animals even on display to give the traditional reverence and secrecy. Certain masks like standing foot stools were used to depict the gods of the Oku people.

As time went on the knowledge was transfer from one family lineage in the Fon dome to the next. Communities living adjacent to the forest Zone benefited from the forest to expand the craft in to a full profession. The steady market provided by the crafts and carves saw these products sold far beyond Oku in the early 19th century.

Today carves depict the age of this Fondom and translate the artistic know how and inspiration of the various carvers. Oku also boast of a rich traditional musical background thanks to the many good carved drums like the slide drum, standing, the round and talking drums. Music in the Oku traditional context has being a link to talk with the ancestors and to convey a message form the gods. No doubt, why many carvers are renowned musicians and tradi- medical practitioners. Carving like an art is today taught in schools to hand the know how and tradition to the younger generations.



PART-3

About

Development

and

Practical Work

by

Senta Siller

Norbert Pintsch

Cooperation & >X< - Transfer

A man without a culture is a man without identity.
Ateh Bayore, artist in The Herald , p.10, 24.-25.01..05

A man without traditional culture will leave this,
if he adapt foreign technology, ideas, language, systems,...
Aron Pinsker, IPC

Many dear people, institutions, etc. exist as helpers and want only the best. The governments of certain countries are animated to invest in high tech. Others, foreign governments and institutions, are also terribly nice and offer programmes to support the poor population, especially in rural areas.

They should also have a share in the blessing of technology, in the achievements of so-called progress.

This willingness to help and altruism is remarkable, as is the intention to make this or that palatable.

A serious look at the situation of the bountiful countries and organisations should however make one critical - because what is one trying to achieve if not just an improvement in one's own economic situation.

In a time of widely-dispersed information, it is evermore difficult to sell microwaves to customers in the Sahara and freezers to those in Greenland, one would do it, in order to support one's own economy, respectively, this or that enterprise.

Basically, one brings that off only when one finds willing helpers and gullible users in the so-called poor countries.

These are ultimately not truly poor, therefore it is important to produce this feeling in them. One can regard this as a basic requirement for further successful procedures.

For those affected, it is difficult to be aware of the fact that by joining in they increasingly lose from their own abundant culture. Additionally aggravating is that, above economic worth in general, there exists no effective evaluation criteria. The immeasurable can therefore have no tangible value.

In a civilisation that is based on the defineable, a traditional culture thereby loses in meaning.

This is the tragic element, that only then assumes significance in the public sphere and becomes rateable when the 'product', as it is called in the language of western culture, doesn't exist, or merely only in trace elements.

Taking account of the situation sketched out above, the transfer of solutions from other cultures achieves a distinctive relevancy.

Those who seemingly wish to help should constantly be asked in advance: for whom is this or that a benefit? Or even better, the questions should be put to oneself and an unemotional answer should be found:

What is the motivation for a foreign investor or businessman to invest in a so-called poor country-

- Humanity and/or
- Tolerance and respect towards other cultures and/or
- Consideration ???

In answering critical questions one cannot fail to be confronted with a certain truth.

The helper for investors will see himself used as stirrup holder, who cooperates in the preparation of this or that business for the next wave. In this wave, the global player will play the tune, and the stirrup holder will draw the short straw, that is to say, he will probably rediscover himself as victim.

Indeed, there exists the prevailing possibility to close one's eyes and to employ the method of prevarication as regards problems. One can dedicate oneself to religion and science, as that is generally done, with much success.

The responsible and forward thinker must decide for himself which way is the right and important one for the preservation of a traditional culture.

Development as a Resource Killer

When we speak of "development" here, surely we do not mean the childhood development, the development of inter-human relationships, the development of a business dealing or similar, rather the political economical technical development of a society or a region, which due to their association with a funding authority, international institution, multinational concern or a grouping of countries, is to be seen more or less as dependent in their policies.

The implementation of technologies of the western cultures is always seen under the aspect of improved utilization of resources, which is the basis for such developments. This success-oriented approach has long fascinated members of other cultures and induced them to copy and take over this approach. This success-oriented thinking is also problem-solution oriented, which -bluntly said- is the cause of the world-wide development in the wrong direction; the problems are solved on short-term basis, the solution of the new problems arising out of these solutions are dismissed in the name of progress. The descendants are supposed to solve these problems in the usual way, using the principle of hope!

One of the main arguments for using the technologies from the western cultures is the resource argument, which says that resources are to be used in a better way. Seen on the face of it, it is a convincing argument for those to be convinced and the main source of the well accepted progress based concepts.

Consequent problems arising out of a success-oriented thinking and dealing remain unresolved, because the long term problems far away on the horizon are intentionally not desired to be recognized. One would otherwise also never find the solution to the problem. One is supposed to act, to earn money, the life must go on, the people want work and earnings, one can also not turn back the time. Even the generally mean person can hardly protest on this point.

Following the thinking further on, we come across the two fields of the believing knowledge bearers and the knowledge bearing believers, which means it becomes either religious or turns towards critical rationalism of the science.

Assuming that a representative of both fields, maybe from other cultures, would ponder upon the matter keeping his senses open and unpolluted, it can happen, that totally new undreamed of discoveries are made. The thinking here revolves around the city culture and the rural culture, in which the city dweller on the basis of his surroundings and the historically motivated role feels himself superior to the representative of the traditional culture, who understandably is located in the rural area.

City air originally made one feel free and led in the middle ages from the emotional confinement in the village to the protected and open world under the castles.

In time, in which one cannot speak of enormous numbers of persons living in the villages any more, on the contrary, we speak more of the nameless masses in the urban areas, resources are located much less in the cities than in the rural areas. Almost a destruction of resources is

taking place in the urban areas in the name of so called quality of life for the city dwellers.

This quality of life exists in the form of auxiliary and replacement services and income generating measures in the areas of culture and they aim to cover up the emptiness created in the meanwhile in the society.

As so often in life, one does not see that what one does not want to see. In this case one cannot imagine to be following totally wrong ideals. A person conditioned in this way can only recognize deficiencies in other cultures in comparison to his own environment,- if he does not see things with an open mind.

Development ? – Learning from NGOs in Low Industrialized Countries

To invent you need much imagination
And a lot of worthless inspiration.
T.A. Edison

There are two types of jobs in our world:

a) Company jobs, it means: jobs in private sector, and

b) Government jobs, it means: jobs in schools, institutions, etc.

Most of these jobs give income for the members in urban areas; time is necessary to organize the jobs: going to the office in the morning and coming back in the late afternoon. Between, the people have breakfast, lunch, tea time; the children are in school or wherever. Early in the morning or late in the afternoon, the family members have to buy the things for daily life, etc.

Without talking about history and development, since the middle of the last century, more and more the term "Non-Government-Organization" were used, which we not discuss here.

Active people were coming together to find a solution for their special part of life, beside a business job, beside a government job. Some of them have had a job in a company or via the government and looked for a solution of problems in the local environment or community. Others tried to create an own organization to find solutions on another level, on the level far away from government and / or company, but using similar technics and knowledge.

This is the reason for main problems in such NGOs, because they work with a budget, like any company or government. The employees have a right on monthly salary, there is no discussion about the quantity and / or quality of any work.

The NGO has also to pay for the active and producing members, but –in a good NGO- there is a way to find a way in the case of problems. For that, it is very important, that the members are informed about the goals and visions of the NGO. They have to react in case of low income, then, of course, it is necessary that the income from all the members will be reduced. But, important to say this, the NGO business must work now and then on a cheaper level, but it must continue work, because: work is progress. Inactive NGOs are not helpful, give no aid – neither to the members, nor to the community.

The money, to finance the activity of the NGO, is life important, like the above activities,- but from where the money comes ? – NGOs, supported from companies or government institutions don't solve problems, they only move problems from one side to the other side. What is necessary then?

The NGO must have a direct income via the market, local or national or international. A

product is the most important thing. It is impossible to create such a product on the green table, discussions in the environment are the only way to create such a product.

Income via NGO-work will never cover the finance needs for the complete life style of a member and his or her family. But it creates additional income to help the member. This is good and bad, you can say.

In case of low income via the one NGO the active person has an open mind for other problems, individual and common problems and, of course, an open mind for the surrounding, which is important for the intellectual power. In other societies this is a very big problem: if the people are full financed, they have other goals and visions and are like a ball in a game, important for different interests in business, politics, etc.

The problems than are not coming on the side from the individual, they are also than problems in the big community: in the nation. They will have problems in the social system, in the production, in education, etc.

There is a difference in NGO work in rural areas and urban areas. The big potential NGOs have in rural areas, because, they have a lot of unidentified resources. Never or very seldom the members from the urban culture will find the way back to these resources: it means not back to the roots, it means to use these traditional resources. Educated in the system of a city or urban area the natural knowledge and skills are lost for the citizens. The other problem is: the members of rural areas are influenced more and more from via, what we call, "city culture". Via the media the knowledge about the life in cities seems the members from the rural areas as an ideal life, they move with only the virulent hope to the big cities.

The result is more and more problems for the life in the cities, this means: problems for the Citizens and problems for the former villagers. One answer could be:

The future is in the rural areas.

Helping Development, but for whom?

There is no more delicate thing that one can undertake or that is more dangerous to carry out than to be the leader of an attempt to make changes. Because whoever creates something new will have as his enemies all those for whom things are going well with the way things already are, and will, only find half-hearted support from those who only might do better under the new system.
Niccolò Machiavelli,
Adviser to the Venetian Court, 1513.

My dear Kepler: What do you think of the leading philosophers here, to whom I have attempted a thousand times to show my studies, but who, with the laziness of a snake which has eaten to its fill, were never ready to look at the planets or the moon or even to look through a telescope. Galileo Galilei in a letter to Johannes Kepler, Who had discovered that the earth goes around the sun and not the other way around, 1630.

What possibilities do the less industrially developed countries have against the more modern ones to assert themselves? Have they any chances at all? What can still be done against the richness that is constantly growing?

When countries are compared, it is always material values that are taken into consideration. The number of industrial products play an increasingly larger role. But, if not there, where else must the relationship between the number of cars and the population be very important. And there are many other such examples, where only material wealth is counted or taken into account. Thanks to the influence of the media, the wish for material goods grows larger all the time, everywhere in the world. People think that in order to have these material goods they must emigrate or if they stay behind then they have to blindly take on the values of cultures very different from their own.

Those who do emigrate are forced to support those who stay behind, and the latter are busy trying to create this same material paradise in a smaller version. If there is any cultural freedom, we can see that there is an enormous and unused potential in "underdeveloped" countries. They are underdeveloped, true, but only from the point of view of the more industrialised countries.

Using such stock phrases as globalisation, working together, etc., one is able to market very well the products of industrialised countries, and thus take care, from purely political motives, of one's own countrymen. But apparently, nobody takes the time to recognise that something has gone badly wrong when we can look upon industrial waste material as a sign of progress. If this insight is followed though, one can recognise that the politics based on scientific thinking must reach a turning point. It is common for the present generation not to recognise a critical turning point in the way we look at the world, nor for it to wish to do so.

And herein lies an opportunity for non Western cultures:

- They can develop their traditional and cultural specialities,
- They can bring back the value of production by hand of artistic creations,
- They can begin to think about new ways of doing business and how to bring back educational traditions
- They can take up a critical exploration of the value of Western products.

Here are some concrete examples of what can be done:

- There should be cooperation between local NGO's, businesses and universities.
- There should be the development of products finished by hand using traditional methods.
- There should be the use of alternative technologies and methods of construction based on traditional knowledge.

Partnership in Development or Creation of a Masterplan

... a masterplan is a tool,- an unready tool;
if you use this tool consequently and more
and more and you continue,- than the
masterplan is complete and the humans
finish and exist no longer...

Let us discuss partnerships theoretically and under different aspects:

PARTNERSHIPS

One gladly uses the term synergy-effect and explains with it the benefit, when two or more partners develop something from different points of view, encouraging each other. At an individual level in current times it is also a good way of solving problems. In organizations and institutions also, talking to each other has advantages, - a characteristic which was very common since centuries before the era of value addition. From financial point of view however, it does not make sense, to discuss financial matters, when both or more parties have similar financial possibilities; unfortunately, the basic law of mathematics becomes valid here, i.e. $0+0=0$!

MASTER PLAN

In countries and regions with less experience, the preparation of a master plan appears to be the most important means for solving problems. Supported by marketing from the technical scientific area, the master plan represents for these regions and countries a necessary income generating measure, for which continuous supply of financial means is necessary. It is for this reason that the instrument of the master plan is to be considered critically, otherwise as a consequence, the individual beneficiary turns out to be the loser at the end.

In the following arguments we shall not discuss the mathematical options, rather discuss the problems of the master plan from 10 different angles:

A master plan always reflects the technical, techno-economic status of a culture.

A master plan is a technical aid, in which different information is entered into plans, in order to regulate the development of a region, a city or a community; the fixation of the information must be technically and legally secured and therefore appropriate data, statistics, information, must be available and also kept up to date.

A master plan contains all required land allocation which is reflected in building plans as well as extensive integration and support services within a community.

A master plan always consists of compromises and never reflects a durable totality, rather only temporary discussions and conclusions.

A master plan is always a technical aid,-not a remedy to problems!

A master plan is always result-oriented and tries to project the impression of fixing

meaningful targets.

A master plan always sets targets, -whether these targets are correct and meaningful, is only visible in case of social problems and that not immediately but only after -usually non-transparent long term process.

A master plan contains only material facts and no immaterial information.

Thanks to computerization, a master plan of the future will be fed with continuous and improved data.

A master plan, which becomes more and more sophisticated through technological development, will be an important instrument of high perfection for economy, engineering, environment, -and will lead to incapacitating the human being as a result.

Few Thoughts on the Problem Area >Theory and Practice<

To be right and to get the right in the society are not the same thing; Knowledge and belief are results of different experiences, - two sides of a medal. Unfortunately, there is a substitution taking place between knowledge and belief, so that some believe so much that they think they know and the others who think they know forget, they they actually only believe.

We have tried on different opportunities (About the origins of development, development aid, etc. why?, About the difference between urban and rural culture) to observe and describe with the help of projects in different countries tendencies and flows.

Going from the widely spread European-American culture, most of the solutions offered to problems have been developed in an uncomplicated way and surely through hard work, with a forward view towards progress. It must on the other hand not only surprise but even horrify, how many new problems have arisen due to this approach.

We want to save long explanations at this point. One could probably make extensive explanations in short essays about each of the following points, - it would not help much, therefore only a few background explanations are given:

DEVELOPMENT: Development takes place from outside, in order to help those unfit for such type of development to implement new ideas and new technologies unsuitable for them.

EFFICIENCY: As a rule, conventional systems function badly or not at all, and support is needed in order to participate in them.

EMANCIPATION: A movement, which helps supposedly similarly placed to unfold themselves.

EVOLUTION: Everything is in the flow, nothing remains unchanged, everything is under continuous development. There should be many others taking part in the development process in order to tackle the common problems.

PROGRESS: Everything develops itself, nothing remains as it was, - this is the progress, which improves everything and removes the lack of knowledge.

FAST FOOD – SOFT DRINKS – INTERNET: The satisfaction of bodily pleasures through industry is put against the edification of the soul through the internet. Wide range of offers can be availed in the former as well as the latter case. Eating and drinking of rich industrial products shows itself in the body measurements, the consequences of internet use are not visible outwardly.

RESEARCH: Developments take place very seldom without outside help. Research needs to be undertaken, so that developments can be prepared and implemented.

FREE TIME: Today everybody needs activities to counter the everyday stress and to refresh oneself, - that is what the free time³ is needed for.

WELFARE: The industrial civilization is of course not inhuman, - it takes care of its members through welfare steps.

INDUSTRIALIZATION: With the help of industrialization and the manufacture of various types of products, better quality of life is made available to the individual person.

INCOME GENERATION: It is important to help other people achieve income, in order to make them lead their lives in a dignified manner.

MULTICULTURAL: The urban culture is characterized through diverse ethnic groups; the excellent object is to bring the people together.

NATION: This is the unit of a people, which belong together.

OPTIMIZATION: One can always do everything a little better in order to save time and better utilize time and resources and through that to be economically active in a better way.

ORGANIZATION: targeted activity is not possible without some form of organization,- these forms of organization have been developed in industrial countries and help to transform things.

PRODUCTION: A meaningful way of production is only possible, when all available resources are utilized in the sense of a fully planned production.

RIGHTS {EDUCATION, WORK, HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, etc. }: In stark contrast to the times without basic rights, the urban dweller of today is fully secured through a vast number of laws. He has a right to (paid) work, a right to education (general and equal rights), a right to health,- yes, he even has so called human rights !

TOLERANCE {ACCEPTANCE, IGNORANCE}: An educated and enlightened person is a tolerant person,- he accepts things within his tolerance limits and ignores in a cultivated way what lies beyond his tolerance limits.

UNDERDEVELOPMENT: A country, a region, but also persons were underdeveloped in the past, if they were not able to utilize the advantages of the modern technology.

PRECAUTION: One should not live for the day, but take precautionary measures for eventualities. Certain institutions which help in taking precautionary measures are called insurance companies.

We do not want to go deeper into these explanations and want to depend upon the ability of the reader to provoke and critically analyze these statements.

Feeling and thinking are two of our senses, which help us to understand the world in and around us, whereas the thinking is used for processing the information we feel so that a reaction is made possible. We can process the registered information, but it always depends upon our absorption capacity of our senses. We cannot process what our senses do not register, but we can speculate about them. If our speculations make us recognize the speculated or even create it, then it must probably exist, on which belief we further develop the concept step by step and try to manifest it, because apparently something exists, which is not perceptible. Here we see something, which can only be explained through belief and through knowledge, through believing knowledge and knowledgeable belief and therefore - actually incompatible- coexistence begins between the romantic religiousness and critical rationalism.

It is, seen from a distance, irrelevant whether the starting point is belief or knowledge. It appears to be more important that a mixture of theory and practice occurs, which in the positive case supplement each other.

The capacity to deal with theory and practice seems to have led us in current times to insurmountable difficulties, which has caused most surprising confusions and concentrated misunderstandings.

Difficulties arise, simply said, when the surrounding situation vanishes from the view point. The generally limited intelligence capacity is not able to integrate other factors into the solution, so that we do develop solutions, but those which create new and further problems.

About Values and Change in Values

Our life revolves around a set of values -self imposed, unknowingly taken over and deliberate values, We think that we are able to revise them and adjust them to the given realities, but in most cases, these are so deeply integrated into us, that we are unable to make any changes to them although we seem convinced that we are able to.

We consider ourselves to be the architect of our luck, -a result of the western way of thinking and extremely spiritualized. It is not possible for us to orientate ourselves to the new situations without a change in values. We want to be at ease and open minded and are surprised when we find ourselves in superficialness.

In earlier times, so we think, we were dominated by pressures of the government and higher authorities. The exploitation of the consumer today, through us and the consumers themselves, is not felt by us at all.

Should we consider ourselves as small part of a set of different systems, it would point to a closed system, independent of all other systems, the prerequisite of which would be mutuality.

Living within the time, we are not able to observe and correct ourselves. Apparently we recognize the consequences of what we do, but only within the scope of our possibilities and limited by what we think is possible and makes sense. So we live, more or less actively, and set goals for ourselves without being clear about the various inter-relationships.

We think that we would love the progress and feel happy about the expected relief, -relief in our day to day living conditions; we are specially happy about electronic devices and invest heavily in new technologies, all the while thinking about achieving peace and are even ready to go on the road for this purpose.

We understand the fundamentals of economics very well and know how to earn money, also because we are forced to earn money in order to finance the expensive lifestyle in an urban environment.

In the far past times, the city life used to represent freedom from the toiling day to day routine under the feudal lords. These pressures and distresses are not present in the current times.

Everything is so free and consumer friendly. The marketing through advertisement suggests in a subtle manner the necessity to buy a still faster computer, a still more diversly usable mobile phone, a still more exacter navigation device. This euphoria we find even in far away places and we do not understand, that the summation of the individual purchases leads to the war machinery getting more and more perfect.

We think about getting relief in the civil life but neither do we think about the consequences nor do we understand that the military consequences, financed through anonymous taxes, is actually the result of civil doings.

Whoever takes the first step towards becoming a western-style consumer is partly responsible for the happenings reported in the media, which shock him and create fear in him.

Whoever succumbs to the western style rules of the game lives the progress, who does'nt, is automatically excluded, because there can be no time for contemplative consideration as the turnover wheel, almost as second religion, has to be kept in motion.

To reflect upon things requires time and time is money, as made abundantly clear in the western approach. The education also does not allow time to reflect upon and review the position. The education educates on how to absorb the given instruments.

Once this has been done, one has absorbed the fundamentals of the second religion and achieved the much praised freedom. Appropriately all thinking and effort is directed towards the instruments.

Critically, it reminds of a star gazer, who observes the stars studded sky and is fixed upon looking only at the stars.

Technology and Culture

What has technology to do with culture? a question asked by many professional technology fans. A more exact consideration will however reveal, that culture is the larger dimension and technology is just a part of it. In different eras, some areas have been more influential and in others less. This way of considering things in itself testifies to a technical way of looking at things. Technical way of thinking is characterized by representation in a manner, the roots of which are to be found in mathematical calculations. There, where abstract thought cannot be explained due to missing power of imagination, we make use of drawings in order to achieve clarity in understanding. It probably never happens that a development process runs as a straight line, rather it is more like a chaotic structure in which now and then a certain regularity becomes visible, which is lost once again after a certain period of time to once again appear as a logical pattern at a later time.

Cycles and developments are gladly represented by parabolic curves. Either something develops itself to a climax to later on once again fall to a flat level or a tendency is shown for something to rise and sink.

This form of diagram often gives the impression of a continuous process of development in a wave form. A break from this cycle is displeasing. And still, recognizing a break in pattern, we still arrive at a hyperbolic diagram, which apparently reflects the reality more precisely. It helps us to follow well the development of the economic element of the culture: a "positive" development reaches its climax, to break at a maximum point and fall to the ground. Even in a positive increasing tendency, the negative image has to be overcome, in order to arrive at a zero line from where to grow into the positive once again.

The economic impact of virtual money is well recognizable, when we consider it from a mathematical perspective. Well known from the game theory is the chess model: the persian king allows his boredom to be covered by development of games. The developer of chess pleased the king so much, that he was given one free wish. The developer only wanted 1 corn on the first field, 2 on the second, 4 on the third and so on. The king soon lost his laugh (see formula) because required number of corn were not available any more..

$$Z = \sum_{N=0}^{63} (2^N)$$

"Sum of N=0 till N=63
over 2 times N. As $x^0=1$, the summation begins with a corn.

The result:
On field 64 there are 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 pieces of corn,
written in a compact way:
9.22E+18 (corn).

The sum of all corns from field 1 till 64 is:
18,446,744,073,709,551,616, written exponentially as 1.84E+19 (corn).

Contrary to chess game, the virtual money economy has unlimited number of fields. Take the case of Issa. If he had given his son 1 Rupee for investment, after a period of 2000 years and using the interest rate formula, the quantity of total money in circulation today would not suffice to pay him out. Apart from that, Issa would still have an immense transport problem (see calculation).

$$K_N = K_0 (1.0 + p)^N$$

N = Number of years (these are all the years from 0 till 2000, i.e. total 2001),
 K_N = Capital after N years,
 p = Percentage / 100, at 5% means p=0.05.

The result:

$K_N(N=2001) = 25.106.573.148.442.298.897.434.214.700.000.000.000.000,00$ prs,
 said differently:
 2.51e+40 PKR.

The interest alone in the year 2000 would be:

1.195.551.102.306.776.137.973.057.843.000.000.000.000,00 PKR, i.e. 1.20e+39 prs.

If paid in 500 PKR note of 1.12gm each, this would be a mass of $5.6224 * 10^{34}$ kg, i.e. 9412079817.9 times the mass of earth.***

Both the examples in respect of the virtual economy confirm the correctness of the hyperbolic diagram (according to KP Friebe****) indicating the necessity of the break-up. The reality confirms the correctness of the assumption. The increase in numbers is so massive, that only break-ups, i.e. the impoverishment of one group of players in real life keeps the process going on. An indication of an outdated system, not repairable any more.

The possibility to represent the social development as described above by way of a formula is therefore understandable and is shown as follows (see Formula with Legend).

$$C = f \{ N^* + c * [PRE ??? paste] \}$$

C	=	Culture
N*	=	Nature
c*	=	Civilization
P	=	Philosophy
R	=	Religion
E	=	Education
??	?	Inter-dependencies
p	=	Politics
a	=	Art
s	=	Science
t	=	Technology
e	=	Economy

It is said that a diagram says more than a thousand words. An indication at the same time, how much more can be read out of a diagram.

A diagram is supposed to clarify and simplify. Changes are possible only if we are conscious of the volume of simplification, otherwise uniformity remains. Consolation remains the fact however, that even a uniform process will be followed by a large number of people.

*** A similar example is described by Douglas Adams in his novel "The restaurant at the end of the universe" / "The hitchhikers guide to the galaxy".

**** KP Friebe is a German cross thinker, who was lately director of a technology foundation in Germany.

***** Culture originates out of the developing nature and the civilization, which is characterized by ideal and material elements and their inter-action.

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Unnoticed does not mean Non-existent

A very interesting example of global development in the wrong direction is the education sector, which concentrates on economic factors.

As already often explained in the Cultural-Model, the influence of individual parts of culture on culture itself is quite variable. The religion has played a major role in the past in influencing the culture, today it is the economy, which through the widespread industrialization, narrows down or completely blocks the view.

The society and the politics get a completely new way of thinking. The success now means: industrialization has priority, industrial-friendly education in well reputed universities -even if unknowingly- the key to ending poverty. The decline of the traditional handicraft techniques is to be seen in this context. The users of such techniques can no longer compete with industrial products, whereby the destroyers of this traditional activity fully ignore, that it is actually this activity, which represents the specialness and richness of a country and provide it with a basis !

Clearly said: the level of industry in a country does not represent the richness of a country.

The question arises, how long to follow domesticated and trained elite as "Lemings" towards mass suicide.

Apart from the usual and widely-placed arguments, interesting points have been raised in this discussion since a long time (F. Bergman, W.A. Dyson, etc.).

The work of recent years of NGO projects, which operate off the beaten track, for example the Thatta-Kedona Project (Siller-Pintsch), has led to the development of following explanation model:

- the holistic traditional oriented (environmental friendly) system (LowTech) in rural area,
- the open industry oriented (resource and environment unfriendly) system of the cities, and -
- the closed system (HighTech), in which the human being lived uniformed and conditioned, possibly without the possibility of private property (extreme example: inter-planetary journeys, in which house-farm-land etc. is not possible any more, paid work versus unpaid work etc.).

While Bergman describes the end of conventional work and its replacement by paid work as well as individually defined work and puts social work in the upfront, Dyson points more to the mis-concept of Total-Economy, which includes money economy, industrial production, Services, but ignores the actual reality by not taking into consideration the work done within the family and within the parameters of social inter-action.

The term in fact implies: A large part of the public economy (in statistical sense) is invisible and non-existent !... Marginal and home economics play (... one could also say: for good reason....) no role at all in the usual industrial practice.

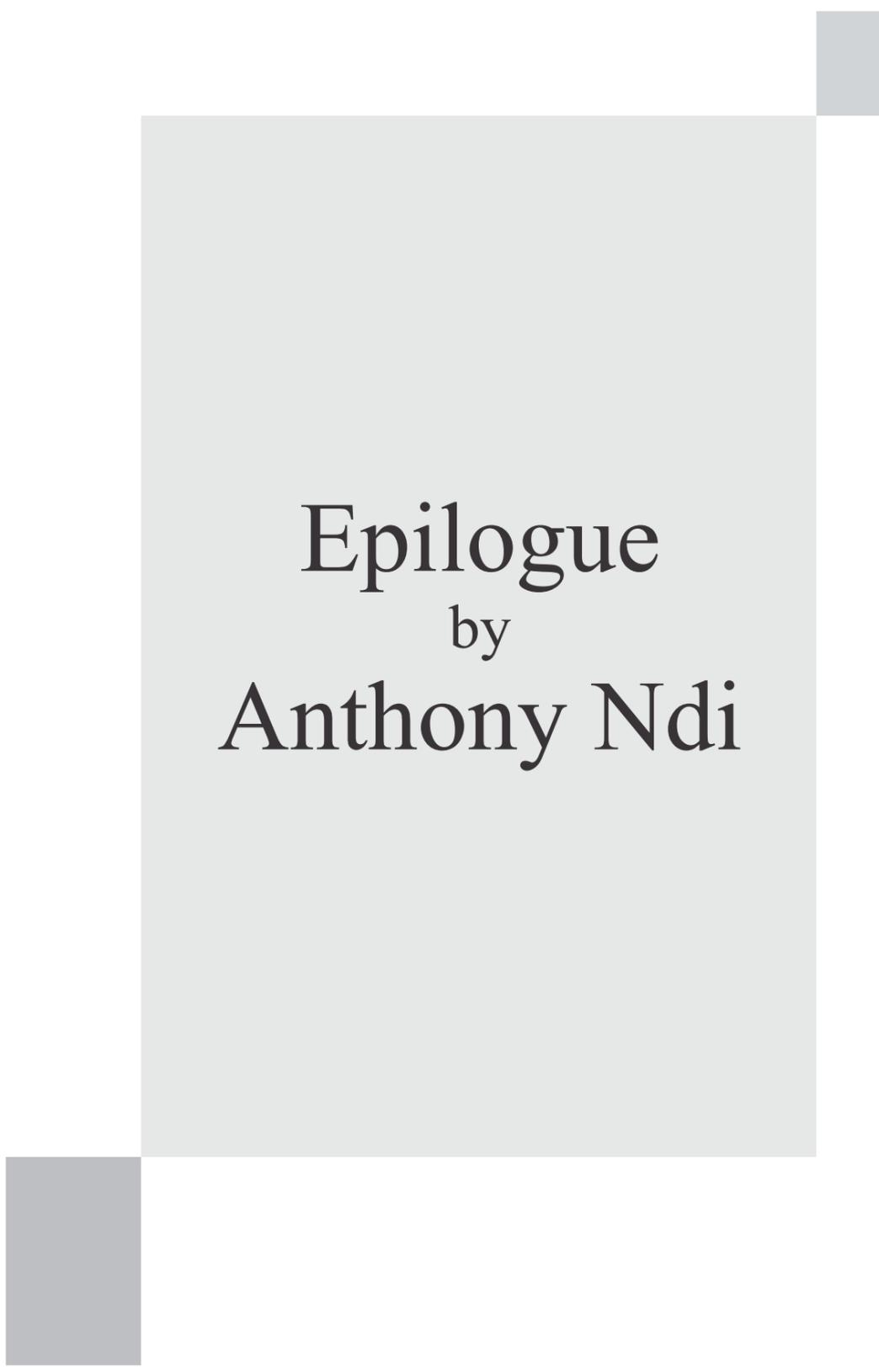
Marginal economy: self designed, self administered, work and worker intensive, qualification intensive, not intensive in capital, energy and raw material, relationship intensive, directed towards self and group benefit.

Home economy: culturally defined, self administered, self designed, work and worker intensive, qualification intensive, small-capital intensive, cooperation intensive, relationship intensive, directed towards self and group benefit.

The fact that basic elements of of the economy (Marginal and Home economics) remain invisible and unaccounted leads to irreparable damage.

The lesser our economic life [...] serves our family and group support, the more dependent and susceptible we become economically.

The influence of the industry based economy is able to explain the misunderstood term "Non-Government Organization", -but not the term General property !



Epilogue
by
Anthony Ndi

Bamenda University of Science and Technology, [BUST] Introduction

This publication marks the realisation of the passionate dream of the authorities of Bamenda University of Science and Technology (BUST) to start off a university journal for the institution. This vision was recently given full expression to, by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Elias M Nwana, presently in the USA, when he sent home some articles to be published in a projected university periodical. One of these dealing with the Motto of BUST: “Cognoscere (To Know), Facere (To Create) and Edificare (To Build)” was recently published in the Cameron Panorama of December 2005.

The raison d'être was that for a university to be resourceful, productive and effective, and for it to be able to create an impact on society; among its imperative requirements should be a good library, science and technology labs and a sound printing and publishing press for its research findings. It is in this context that this publication is particularly significant as it also makes a historic debut for the BUST – CAT relationship. Our gratitude for this achievement goes to Prof, Dr. Norbert Pintsch and Dr. Senta Anna Maria Siller, the couple who have made this noble dream possible, and much earlier than envisaged.

BUST – CAT (Centre for Appropriate Technology) collaboration goes back to 2002 and started with friendly exchange of visits, information and discussions between the two institutions. Later that year a draft collaborative agreement was made between them even before the promulgation of the law on Lay Private Higher Education, which introduced the Higher National Diploma Programme. In the project it was initially envisaged to link CAT to the “BUST School of Technology and Basic Studies”. However, this bonding project between the two institutions intensified when in 2003 CAT single-handedly undertook the arduous task of soliciting customs exoneration, clearance and transportation to Bamenda, of precious dental equipment secured for the BUST Institute of Health by Prof., Dr. Norbert Pintsch and Dr. Senta Anna Maria Siller. The BUST administration has remained immensely grateful to CAT for this gracious service.

Since the final official approval for BUST to “Open” in September 2005 by the Cameroon Government, this informal collaboration between BUST and CAT has gathered momentum and is about to be crystallised into a more formal accord between CAT and the Faculty of Agriculture and Rural Development, where it appropriately fits. This should yield still greater dividends in both depth and breadth, by way of technological profundity and wider publicity to the mutual benefit of both establishments and the Cameroonian public at large in the realms of: “renewable and appropriate energy”, environmental hygiene, poverty alleviation, professionalism, raising the standard of living of the rural masses, especially through self-actualisation and the generation of local Self-sustaining micro-industrial enterprises. All of this of course, ties up fair and square with the vision of the Founding Fathers of Bamenda University, who were well aware of the human and natural resources with which this Province is so richly endowed. The inbuilt virtue of self-reliance development has already, abundantly been manifested by the incredible achievements of CAT in just five years. All that remains for it to blossom is to give it better focus, wider publicity and momentum, which the BUST component in that equation would amply supply.

Whenever the history of BUST shall come to be written, the names of Prof., Dr. Norbert Pintsch and Dr. Senta Anna Maria Siller would incontestably be engraved in gold. On record, since 2001, this diligent couple either individually or together have systematically acted as Visiting, Guest Lecturers at BUST, systematically presenting stimulating, educative, informative and graphic lectures on a variety of topics, which the BUST community has actually begun to anticipate nostalgically on an annual basis. The peak of these visits was reached in 2003 as indicated, when they secured a complete set of highly prized dental equipment for the BUST Institute of Health Sciences and in addition had it shipped from Germany to Cameroon.

Moreover, their lectures have struck a chord in the students, who recently expressed an ardent interest in Dr. Senta Siller's approach towards poverty alleviation, especially among the rural poor women through projects such as the village puppet industry so successfully implemented in a village in Pakistan and presently in Mankon, Bamenda. The students are convinced that this approach has potential for other villages in this country. On the whole, the entire BUST community is certain that this philanthropic couple have done much for humanity and are capable of doing still much more for our developing rural society through "do it yourself" projects; whereby, instead of simply giving people fish, they are taught how to fish themselves! The gratitude of the BUST staff and students to them is immeasurable.

This publication is highly informative and literally constitutes a textbook or manual of sorts. The wealth of information put together about CAT by Messres Victor N. Njini, Programme Director and co-founder, and Hycinth N. Tanto, Programme Coordinator; and its programmes such as Renewable Energy Technologies, Sustainable Building Technologies and Handicrafts, together with CAT achievements over the past five years is inspiring and instructive. Dr. Senta Siller makes an in-depth presentation on handicrafts and the art of preserving our cultural heritage - an important lesson for all who treasure the past. On the other hand, Professor, Dr. Norbert Pintsch raises thought provoking issues on development in all its ramifications, the role of NGOs in rural development, the complexities of traditional, rural and city cultures; aspects that are fast affecting us in Cameroon today and deserve proper attention. The contributions by the Director Delegate of ENSAB, Dr. Mathew Gwanfogbe and the Preface by the Governor of the North West Province, His Excellency, Mr. Koumpa Issa give this publication all the desired weight and balance it requires to be worthy of a prominent place on the bookshelf of every household in this country and beyond.

Like all maiden ventures, this issue centred predominantly on the achievements of CAT over the past five years is a noble achievement; however, it is hoped in subsequent publications to give it a greater academic, pedagogic and professional bent with the addition of aspects such as book reviews, professional articles and other intellectual features. In the meantime, we look forward to your personal contributions, observations, criticisms and suggestions. Be part of a noble idea, you're heartily welcome to this historic venture.

ANNEX



With Gov. Koumpa Isa



With Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi

Photographs



With Dr John Ngu Foncha
(Ex-President of Brit-Cameroon) & Mrs Anna, 1.1.1999



With Dr Hans Knoepfli



With Fon Angwafor III of Mankon



WITH VOLUNTEERS & STUDENTS



WITH GUESTS & VISITORS





WITH HANDICRAFT WORKSHOPS



WITH APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS



Dolls of the World

Dolls have always been there

Proof of this is found in the excavations in South America, the Subcontinent, Japan, Italy, Greece, and other sites all over the world. Made out of a number of materials like wood, wax, clay, cloth etc., they were not only a toy but used also as religious symbols and cult items for example as miniaturized images of persons. Even today they are used by many people as fetish. Today, the experts are not sure what was the first purpose of the dolls; as a toy, out of which the cult figure developed or the cult figure which became a toy.

Over and above their value as toys with educational value, dolls are realistic documentation of past and present times and therefore important source of our knowledge about the games, life, living and work conditions and economy. They are important cultural carriers.

Dr Senta Siller established different projects in Pakistan, Cameroon, Colombia, etc., in which small but long-term progress was made towards development of rural areas, help towards self sustained development, discouragement of urbanization by way of income generating projects in the rural areas through production of certain types of handicraft items. Dolls are manufactured here lovingly and clothed in traditional dresses and accessories. Fabric design and types of clothing are revived and take an important place in daily life.



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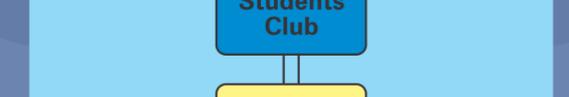
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Mud-Housing & Appropriate Technology

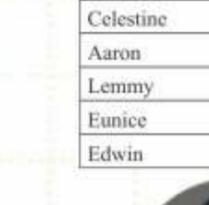
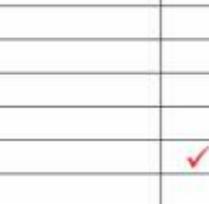
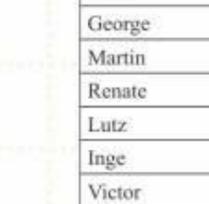
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Participants



Participants / Volunteers	HC	AT	C+I
Senta	✓		✓
Norbert		✓	✓
Dorothee			✓
Marianne			✓
Stefan			✓
George		✓	
Martin		✓	
Renate			✓
Lutz			✓
Inge	✓		
Victor		✓	
William			✓
Hycinthe			✓
Theresa	✓		
Basil	✓		
Calep		✓	
Manasse		✓	
Celestine	✓		
Aaron			✓
Lemmy			✓
Eunice	✓		✓
Edwin	✓		

TOOLS (AT/MH) & DOLLS

AT & MH

The work of CAT-Bamenda is the result of a cooperation with NGOs, and similar with the same orientation.

The promulgation of environmentally-friendly technologies using local materials and their on-site preparation, as well as training sessions for the local population, stand in the foreground of the work. It is advantageous for such an implementation if a holistic line of thought and action is aimed for. Handicrafts and appropriate techniques, including local building methods, as well as Livestock projects and CI result in a meaningful local network and a better basis for gradual, sustainable and non-growth-orientated development and bring a benefit to self-help projects in the rural and semi-urban area.

AT & MH

CAT-Bamenda yi achievement for work na the cooperation with NGO's them for yonda and their guidance.

Them don spread all over technology were yi be cheap and good for we environment, the technology them di use na local materials, their training them for villages too di show their work.

Yi fine plenty for these their kind work as yi di involves all kind natural life. Hand work, technic and contry materials for build house, and for keep domestic animals na meaningful contry network were yi co keep we environment fine and helep me I helep you for we villages.

AT & MH

Mfah CAT-Cameroon yi dunseh mfah oh NGO wi.

Mami mfah I nyi mbo yi jah ngong ba ptoh a shi nashe fong a mbo bu shei Nyu a far sei , a kir sei yehni bi. Yi yu bobong yi ne sei kwasei ambo sei ndi lah keir yei ne sei mah ndei lah kah. Ze sei ngei bu yi bo ku ba ambo sei pta tumbzei or sei gi. Ni a bo mdap sei bu yehni fong. Sei bi ku si yehni pka a maseh nya, ku sei ye ne barr mnya ku tsur jah a nkupsi bu. Si kah yeni kuh bu har, si bi shuti bongbong ten gong ba ni futi nwei fong kpa a ngong bara kpa a lah.

AT & MH

Die Arbeit von CAT-Bamenda ist Resultat einer Kooperation mit NGOs aehnlicher, aber nicht gleicher, Ausrichtung.

Die Verbreitung umweltfreundlicher Techniken unter Verwendung lokaler Materialien und die Herstellung vor Ort, sowie Trainingsveranstaltungen fuer die lokale Bevoelkerung, stehen im Vordergrund der Arbeit.

Vorteilhaft fuer eine derartige Implementierung ist, wenn eine ganzheitliche Denk- und Vorgehensweise angestrebt wird, Kunsthandwerk und Angepasste Techniken, inkl. Lokales Bauen, sowie Lifestock-Projekte und CI ergeben ein sinnvolles lokales Netzwerk und eine bessere Grundlage fuer langsame, nachhaltige und nicht wachstumsorientierte Entwicklung und bringen ein Nutzen in Selbsthilfeprojekten im ruralen und semi-urbanen Bereich.

FROM CAMEROON

