

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILDHOOD
JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANCE AFRICAINE
INTERNATIONALER TAG DER AFRIKANISCHEN KINDHEIT
INTERNATIONALE DAG VAN DE AFRIKAANSE JEUGD
DIA INTERNACIONAL DE LA INFANCIA AFRICANA
...and its YOUTH - IDAY - www.1606.eu

DECEMBER 2008

NEWSLETTER N°5

*«For a child to grow,
one needs the whole village»*

Last News

1. Meetings encounters and activities of IDAY-international (further details on our website).

- Reflection week-end of IDAY France on September 6th and 7th in Rabodanges (Normandy). Attended by all members of IDAY-France and 3 representatives of IDAY-International.
- Meeting of IDAY-Europe on October 4th and November 28th
- Conference on private financing of Education projects in Africa, University Centrum of St Ignatius, Antwerp (Belgium), together with AFLAM and Global Campaign for Education (GCE).
- Participation of Billy Kalonji and Hélène Madinda at the Development Days organised by the European Commission in Strasbourg on November 15 & 17.
- Participation of Catherine Lievens, Billy Kalonji and Jean-Jacques Schul (alternating) at the Migration for Development Days organised by UNDP in Brussels on December 2,3 & 4.

2. Encounters, meetings and activities of the IDAY-national coalitions. Programmes available on the website and reports as soon as available or presented on the national blogs.

No News from our national branches. Several have started organising their activities for 2009. Several projects received from the Uganda coalition published on the “Project Market” section of our website.

We thank all the members who participated in the call for proposals for the computers generously offered by Deutsch Afrika Marketing (DAM). You will recall that only a grouped demand of 100 computers could be honoured by DAM. We received requests for 350 computers.

The Management Committee decided after careful analysis to send the 100 computers to:

NGO ODES (Benin): initiation and utilisation of the computer tools. College Tanguiéta. Beneficiaries : 817 students of which 375 orphans or vulnerable children. 35 computers out of the 40 asked.

NGO IDEV (Benin): initiation and utilisation of the computer tools. College Zangnanado. Beneficiaries: 600 students, 20 computers asked and delivered.

Workshop FIXE (Benin): Project “Light the stars” – electronics – education – video projects. School and College. Tové & Pobé. Beneficiaries : 600 students. 45 Computers (72 asked)

NGO AREDEERS (Togo): literacy training center. Dapaong. Beneficiaries: 150 youngsters. 20 computers asked and delivered.

Arrangements are being made with DAM to solve the logistic problems which prove more difficult than initially envisaged and we hope that the computers can be delivered before June 16th. IDAY is seeking means to satisfy at least part of the other requests.

2. L'AGENDA

1. IDAY – international :

- Virtual Board Meeting of IDAY-International to close on December 31st (comments awaited on documents sent in November and December). To be sent to the virtual General Assembly of January as soon as 50% of Board Members will have replied.
- January 8th: IDAY-International meets M. Alain Hutchinson, Coordinator of the Development Commission of the European Parliament to prepare a conference and insert the issue of the dialogue between Europe and Africa as an issue in the European elections in June 2009.
- On December 22nd, 6 organisations of the African diaspora in the Netherlands decided unanimously to launch IDAY-Netherlands.
- Following several calls from Italian associations, a meeting will be organised in Italy in February. We hope that the International Day of the African Childhood can also be celebrated this year in Italy.
- On February 28th, a meeting will be held with IDAY members in Europe to finalise the programmes of June 2009.
- Promising contacts are being taken in Switzerland, Poland and Germany through the NIDOE network.

2. IDAY Coalitions (see their blogs).

Romuald Dzono Nkongo, Head of IDAY France, will meet Mrs. Esther Nsoga and members of IDAY-Cameroon in Douala Yaounde at the end of January and beginning February to develop

together Meetings between IDAY-France and IDAY-Cameroon, end of January and beginning February.

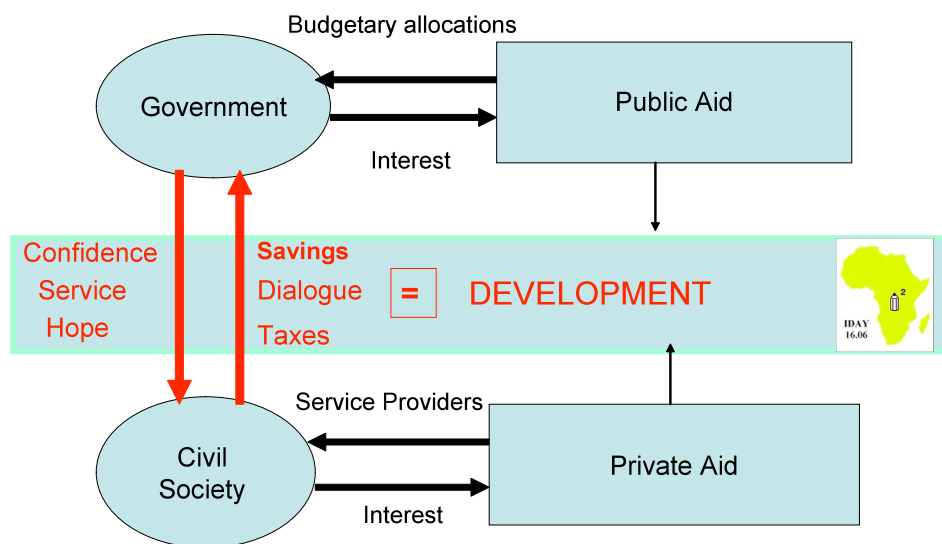
3. DOCUMENTS & LINKS

* We need to correct an error in our IDAY-2008 Evaluation report : It lacked the fantastic participation of several schools of IDAY-Cameroon in the Biggest Lesson in the World organised by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

* IDAY has developed a simple graphic to explain its innovative approach to foreign aid. It shows that besides the traditional foreign aid channels financing the supply of services (constructing schools, training teachers, providing school books, ...), IDAY empowers the organisations of the African civil society to strengthen their dialogue with their governments to get them to provide basic human rights. This approach is based on the following observations:

- During the past 40 years, traditional foreign aid achieved only uncertain results.
- The Governments carry the prime responsibility for giving their people access to basic human rights
- Development starts only if governments and the civil society can collaborate in an environment of mutual trust and constructive dialogue (implying that local public authorities listen to their people and recognise their right to evaluate independently the performance of the government).

IDAY & FOREIGN AID



*We inform you of the following interesting international initiatives:

“ The World March for peace and non-violence, launched by the international organisation “A World without war” and a large coalition of organisations, will take place from 2/10/2009 to 20/01/2010. It will criss-cross the planet from New Zealand, to the foots of the Andes. Its goal: denounce an explosive world situation

*and create an new global consciousness that open the way to a real culture of peace and non-violence, absolutely necessary for the future of humanity. The World March will carry all sorts of events : encounters, forums, festivals, concerts and cultural, sportive, artistic and educational activities organised by any person, organisation or institution. In short, anything imagination can conceive...!!. Let us have our voices hear!! The March will pass also in Africa : Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Togo, Ghana, Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Kenya. To participate, propose an initiative, adhere, see on the website : www.machamundial.org or contact couleursterre@yahoo.com.
(Text submitted by the organisers of the March)*

4. THOUGHTS

Dear Partners

The IDAY-International team wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Newyear. In Europe, despite the financial and economic crisis and general complaints by some European about loss of purchase power, the overall atmosphere remains one of festivities. I would have like to be able to announce to you good news about our efforts to continue our development along the lines achieved in June 2008.

This, however, is not quite the case.

- The private fund which financed last year 100% of our secretariat has decided to cut its donation by 2/3 and we need to find quickly other contributors.

- Catherine Lievens, who managed our administration and proved to be an exceptionally efficient support, is moving to Canada in April. She will no longer be employed by IDAY but will continue to assist in IDAY's expansion;

- It is proving more difficult than envisaged to convince donors in Europe to support IDAY's innovative approach to development but, on the other hand, the enthusiasm for the IDAY concept from the part of the organisations of civil society encourages us to pursue.

Obviously, 2009 will be financially difficult. The survival of IDAY will very much depend on the members' determination as members of an international network and disseminate the IDAY logo as widely as possible.

Please note below the changes in telephone and fax. We are negotiating with our provider the possibility to have several addresses@1606.eu for our members so as to stimulate exchanges and give greater visibility to our activities. We shall inform you in due time of the procedure to apply.

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* To be changed into iday1606@adsl.toledo.be soon.