

Dear A-DN members,

November 2009

Annual Report 2008-2009



1.0 Introduction

You will have seen the news letter and various press releases, which I have sent out to you from time to time, and I hope that you will have seen that despite our ups and downs we are beginning to make our way, and have several achievements that we can look back on with pleasure. Unfortunately, two of our committee members had to withdraw because of the pressure of their own work, but no doubt these vacancies will be soon filled.

2.0 A-DNs Performance/Achievements:

2.0.1 A-DN Financial Position - Sponsorship:

A-DN received financial support from several actors. Peter Jensen from Royal Canin Danmarks A/S, Solo Grafisk A/S, Randers Sports A/S, Oak Foundation Denmark, Skole- og Kultur Forvaltning in Aalborg Kommune, Sundhed og Bæredygtig Udvikling in Aalborg Kommune, Danske Bank, Christian Den 4s Laugs Fond, Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke and other well wishers. We convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to them all, as they have made it possible for A-DN to carry out some of its integration and development policies. Although much has been changed, we still hope that these sponsors will continue to provide A-DN with their generous support in the year 2010.

2.0.2 Membership:

Our membership has increased significantly up to about 60 in the course of the past year, mainly, due to the personal efforts initiated by Peter Jensen of Royal Canin Denmark A/S, including his networks, such as Solo Grafisk A/S and Randers Sport A/S who fully devoted themselves by assisting us in designing and printing information brochures and other PR materials, including updating of our homepage. Our Thanks goes to Rikke Hansen and Rosey Brodersen who managed to assist us in distributing these PR materials to different parts of our local community and others as well. In addition, we have now updated our homepage making it much easier and much more responsive to our target group. We are most grateful to Peter Jensen and his networks for their most valuable and generous support.

2.0.3 African Craft:



Market Fair 30/5/2009

One of A-DN's goals is to encourage sustainable self-help projects. In this context A-DN supported small initiatives by encouraging African - Masai women, Arusha in Tanzania to use their skills and ability to produce Masai crafts, and then we could support them by finding markets in Denmark. Our initiative managed to give them an opportunity to improve their standard of living, feeding their families, providing shelter and sending their children to school, the basics that most of our children in Denmark take it for granted. We have managed to sell some of these products and hence achieve some of our goals.

2.1 Promotion of A-DN

2.1.1 A-DN's Participation in local integration activities:

A-DN participated in several activities which were organised locally, such as, Mellem folkeligt Samvirke - Student House 20/4, Dansens Dag - 29/4, Fest of Farver i Løvvang - 20/6, Grønlandsktorv - 29/8, Frivilligmarkedet - 29/8, Aalborg Øst Dag - 5/9, Løvvangen - 19/9, Foreningsmarkedet på Biblioteket - 26/9, Aalborg Zoologisk Have from the 27-31/7, Kulturnatten - 9/10 aimed at making A-DN much more visible as a

coordinator and actor in local integration efforts. We managed to meet our target group, learning more about their needs and their views on how to improve integration. We hope to continue to participate in these integration activities next year as well. Sadly, most of our members were more noticeable by their absence in these activities.



Kulturnatten 9/10/2009

2.2. Cultural Integration - Integration Initiatives

2.2.1 Dancing Project in DUS'erne

In spring we engaged ourselves in pilot dancing projects in Filstedvejens skole, Vejgaard Østre skole and Projekt 9220.



Filstedvejens Skole, April 2009

Although we encountered some difficulties in all of the projects, we managed to complete those in Filstedvejens Skole and Vejgaard Skole, while Projekt 9220 in Aalborg Øst was

terminated with immediate effect, due to misinformation and other working difficulties. At these schools, the children and their pedagogs were happy to have us and were very interested in seeing us again. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to lack of resources and therefore the project was not extended. Although we had sent several applications to different sponsors, such as Aalborg Kommune, Lions Clubs and others, so far nothing positive has come up and hence remains closed.

2.2.2 "Kroppen på Toppen i Børnehøjde"

As described in our latest press release, A-DN participated in the "Kroppen på Toppen i Børnehøjde" project, which was organised by Aalborg Kommune, with encouraging results. We succeeded in helping to ensure that not only were the main objectives of the project achieved, but also managed to do a little bit more by meeting some of A-DN's objectives as well. We managed to include the project in our cultural integration policy and Aalborg Kommune has guaranteed that the project will proceed again next year. Below find the comments from one of the Kindergartens that we visited, being representative of the others:



Tusinde tak for sidst. Det var dejligt at i kom og gjorde en trist efterårsdag til en rigtig sjov dag, hvor vi oven i købet fik rørt os.

Det var en god ide at dele børnene op aldersmæssig, så fik de mere ud af det. Jeg spurgte børnene hvad de syntes var sjovt, her er et par udsagn.

"Det var sjovt at løbe"

"Det bedste var trommerne"

"Lege/Danse i rundkredse var sjov"

For de voksne var det godt at få noget nyt inspiration til nogle nye lege og få rørt sig på en ny måde og til nogle nye rytmer.

Det vil måske være en god ide fra start, at gøre klart for de voksne at de gerne/skal være med, da vi var lidt usikker på det.

Ellers er det rigtig godt det i laver, og i er meget velkommen igen.

Mvh Børnehaven Skallerupvej

2.3 Entrepreneurship

2.3.1 Business Forum and Networking:

In May, A-DN arranged a most effective - Market Fair, a business forum in our local community with the aim of encouraging African diaspora to participate in A-DN activities, create business and social networks, and encourage friendships.



Market Fair 30/5/2009

We got heartfelt support and positive response from our local community and we are very grateful for their support. As mentioned, Market Fair focused mainly on how we could get closer to our target group, talk to them in order to find out what it really needed and how best to do it. We invited all members and non-members, especially African diaspora and most organisations with African profiles to take part in the market. Sadly, the result was disappointing. Only two of the local African diaspora and three organisations participated. Some of the African diaspora who even ordered and paid for the booths, never turned up. As with some of our other activities, our existing members were again most noticeable by their absence, fully demonstrating their evident lack of real interest in the activities. We are again busy planning another AFRICA FAIR for the 22nd May 2010, when we hope that the Ambassadors from South Africa and the Ivory Coast, who have

already accepted our invitations, will be able to come and take part. In this context we wish to find ways of how we could possibly assist African and Danish firms to invest in Africa. We hope that many more of our members and other interested local African diaspora will be able to attend.

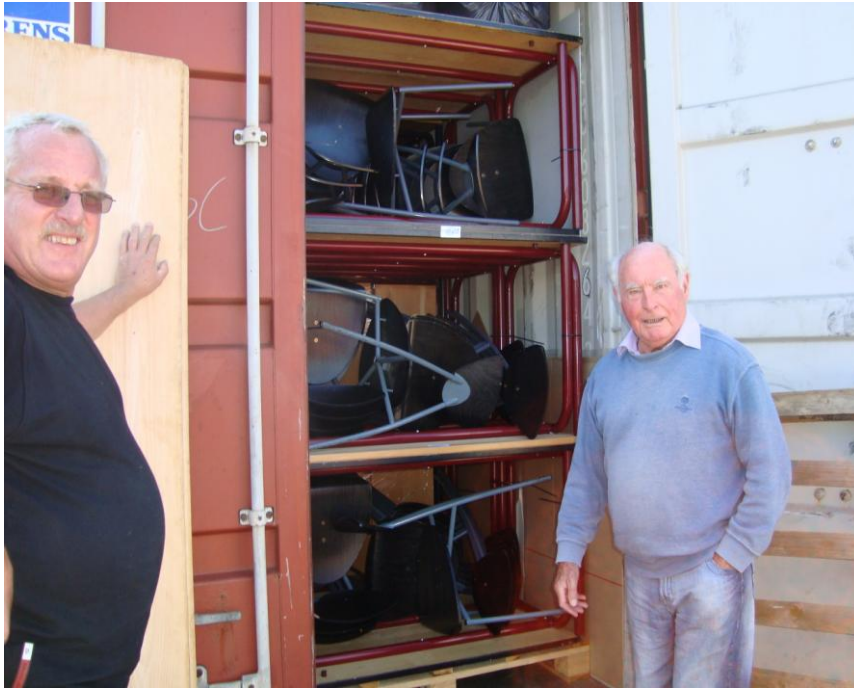


Market Fair 30/5/2009

2.4 Development projects

A-DN had tried to engage itself in different development projects with different actors in Denmark and abroad, but with limited success. We managed to present our project descriptions - Ethiopia and Ghana, with the EU and United Nation, focusing mainly on how we could encourage and motivate African diaspora in engaging in development activities in their countries of origin, unfortunately with limited response. We also presented a project for Zambia and Mali with our local partners and sponsors in Denmark. The Mali project was rejected, because it did not provide suitable enabling environment to attract private investment, the political instability apparently not going on unnoticed. The Zambia project was accepted, but more information is needed in order to go further.

2.4.1 Pemba, Tanzania



Container to Pemba, September 2009

As mentioned in our news letter and September press release, the best of our achievements has been the Pemba project. First and foremost, we kindly convey our thanks and gratitude to Peter Jensen of Royal Canin Danmark A/S, Solo Grafisk A/S, Randers Sport A/S and Mellem Folkeligt Samvirke for their contributions and support for this project. With their help A-DN managed to assist the pupils of Ziwani Primary/Secondary School. In addition, we recently despatched a full 40' container to Ziwani Primary/Secondary School containing an impressive amount of fine quality school and office furniture, which will certainly be of great value to the staff and pupils in Ziwani School, Pemba. All of this equipment was most generously provided and packed by Aalborg University, who were not only incredibly generous, but who handled the assembly and packing of the whole consignment. The shipment was undertaken, again most generously, by Blue Water Shipping A/S who responded magnificently to our appeal for help with transport. Mellem folkeligt Samvirke have most kindly, and again so very generously, undertaken to meet all the costs involved, with the caveat that Pemba School and the Ministry of Education of Zanzibar will ensure duty free and tax exemption



“Kroppen på Toppen I Børnehøjde”

3.0 Future Challenges

3.0.1 Sponsorships

Generally speaking our resources so far do not always quite meet our needs, and therefore the question of membership fees and other sources of resource, such as African craft or sponsorships are of paramount importance and will be discussed at the coming AGM on the 26. November 2009. As we all know our integration and development projects are highly dependant on support from sponsors and well wishers and therefore we need to find strategies of how to encourage them and other well wishers to invest in A-DN for the year 2010.

3.0.2 Integration initiative – Social Arangementet

As you are all aware, A-DN in cooperation with Brovst Asylcenter are now arranging a social event for refugees at present in Brovst Asylcenter at Hobrovej 85, 9000 Aalborg on the 5th of December 2009, with the aim of not only generating mutual cooperation with Brovst Asylcenter but also provide the refugees with an opportunity to meet new friends, establish new social networks, create social relations and extend their experience. We also hope to be able to raise their awareness on integration possibilities and opportunities that can develop their self-esteem, personality and potential. With this arrangement, A-DN

wishes to further a good and safe environment for refugees, based on mutual respect and understanding, friendships and networking between Danes, refugees and other minority groups in our communities. We sincerely hope to get full support and assistance from our members in making this event possible. Any help is most welcome. Kindly forward your registration if you have time and inclination to assist us in this arrangement



PARTY

Saturday, December 5th, 2009

University College Nordjylland

Hobrovej 85, Aalborg

Time: 17h00 - 03h00

Free entrance

Fashion show

African-Danish
cuisine

By Lucy Tobiasen

A successful professional African Artist with a wonderful collection of evening gowns, confirmation dresses, children party collections, etc.

Music: DJ Dully One

Brovst Asylum Centre in cooperation with African-Danish Network invites you to a big party with African and Danish cuisine, fashion show and music. You are kindly welcome!

Program: How can we improve integration opportunities for Refugees in our community?

17h00: Master of Ceremony International Pastor Kevin Sam

17:30: Abdulkadir Osman Farah, Ph.d.- Fellow, Aalborg University

18h00 - 19h30: African cuisine inspired by Danish Christmas

19:30: African Dance

20h00: Fashion show, Lucy Tobiasen - www.princess-hjallerup.dk

22:30: Sandro - Masai Group

23h00: Dance and Music - Afro Music, Reggae & Reggaeton, RnB, etc. by DJ Dully One and a short RAP presentation by Good Fellow

3.0.3 Development prospects in Africa

A-DN is considering a partnership with Brovst Asylcenter, who wishes to engage in development projects if and where at all possible in Africa. We had a good meeting and a long discussion about what may be possible. Brovst Asylcenter is taken with idea of engaging in solar energy technology, utilising whatever potential and ability exists in refugees under their care. A-DN is considering to what extent we could take part in the implementation of this idea, by looking into the idea of suitably capable resident Diaspora who may become involved in this project, considering returning to their countries of origin to undertake installation and development of solar energy.

Why does A-DN want to involve itself in solar technology? It is because we believe that this is where Africa future environment friendly economic development lies. Most African countries are mainly agrarian with underdeveloped electricity networks. Reliable electricity is therefore a prerequisite for sustainable economic development. It provides a better opportunity for efficient operation of workshops, schools, entrepreneurships, clinics, hospitals and training centres, etc, the high sunlight levels could also ensure a sustainable and economic power supply, solar technology to the village levels.

It is just an idea which by Brovst Asylcenter and A-DN and this question will be raised at our AGM and if agreed, we could arrange an information visit to a solar energy panel factory in Thy, where an open invitation especially to African Diaspora together with refugees from the Asylcenter has been made. A visit is scheduled for January to on a date to be made at this AGM Brovst Asylcenter would be willing to arrange for transportation and cover all the necessary costs. Anybody who is suitably informed, capable or interested in this field or subject, are invited to forward their registration to A-DN's office or send an e-mail to info@african-danish-network.dk if they wish to take part. We already have got one member from England who is highly qualified and vastly experienced systems engineer who is prepared to accompany the visit and observe and advise if or when necessary or requested. We will then compile questionnaires for those who attend the visit

to complete in order to assess its value and address the range of questions, which will undoubtedly arise.

Overcoming the inertia of starting is always the most difficult part of any activity such as ours, but as I said, we are beginning to make our way. Nothing succeeds like success, and it is up to our members to help in any way whatever, however small, to help us to succeed in our aims... "Only a little can make a big difference"

We of the committee wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy 2010 to come, and we look forward to hearing from you and meeting you at the AGM

Yours sincerely

Jeanne Dyrskjøt

President A-DN

