

# A-DN NEWSLETTER

No. 2, May 2009

This news letter is published by A-DN – African-Danish Network

Dear network member,

Welcome to our second edition of A-DN news.

A pick at some of the A-DN recent activities; A-DN continues to strive for the promotion of mutual exchange of activities between Danes and Africans in relation to culture, norms, ethos, arts, education and professional relationships, which are based on A-DN's common understanding and fundamental philosophy of "self-help, self-sufficiency and self sustaining projects" permeating all A-DN's activities and projects.

Equally significant, A-DN takes a community-based participatory approach to its projects as well. We therefore kindly ask our members to be active and share their views with A-DN in order to play a proper part in A-DN's policy priorities, strategies and activities. You are encouraged to provide us with innovative and progressive thoughts that may help A-DN provide a more cost-effective and value-added projects and activities, especially on formulating and implementing A-DN's policy of reaching out to the marginalized, the needy and the poor in Denmark and Africa.

For our next edition kindly forward your news items to [info@african-danish-network.dk](mailto:info@african-danish-network.dk)

Thanks!

*Best regards,*

A-DN Executive Committee

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## 1.0 'Thank you' note to our sponsors

We would like to inform you that A-DN has recently received some financial support from well wishers and sponsors, which is very encouraging for our charitable and humanitarian work. A list of our prominent sponsors during the course of this year follows below. We convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of them. With these welcome resources, we hope to be able to have a unique opportunity to implement A-DN's integration and development policy priorities and hence impact positively on matters relating to the integration and developmental agenda. We hope that our sponsors will be able to continue with their generous support in the coming year.

### A-DN's Sponsorship 2009

<b>Activities</b>			
	<b>PR Materials</b>	<b>Organizational activities</b>	<b>Dance project</b>
<b>Sponsorer</b>	Royal Canin Danmark A/S	Royal Canin Danmark A/S	OAK Foundation
	Solo Grafisk A/S	Solo Grafisk A/S	Aalborg Kommune, Sundhed og Bæredygtig Udvikling
		Randers Sport A/S	Aalborg Kommune, Skole og Kulturforvaltning
	Explicit v. Elin Nielsen		

		Aalborg Voksenvenner v. Anita Rokkedal	
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## **2.0 A-DN's participation in activities with local actors of our local community**

### **2.0.1 'Børns Voksenvenner Children Festival' i Nibe**

A-DN in cooperation with Anita Rokkedal from Aalborg Børns Voksenvenner participated in the '*Aalborg Børns Voksenvenner Children Festival*', in Nibe on Sunday, April 19th 2009 from 9:00 – 15:00. Thomas Omondi and Kareem Saeed went to Nibe to help with the arrangements; they managed to entertain the children with African drums, rhythms and songs, while other children enjoyed having their hair plaited in African fashion by Kareem Saeed. The arrangements were another step forward to achieving our goals. We believe that integration through cultural exchanges can be fun, and our experience so far is that the children can get a great deal of pleasure from it.

### **2.0.2 Hele verden i skolearrangement i Aalborg**

On Thursday, the 23rd of April 2009 from 10:30-14:00, A-DN in cooperation with IBIS Nordjylland participated in the "Hele verden i skole kampagne". IBIS Nordjylland invited more than 100 northern-jutlandic school-children to take part in this function by composing a speech to the audience about how important it is for world leaders to promote an equal basic education for the children of the world. Equally significantly, the day offered insights into African culture, with music from Gimo Mendes from Mozambique, while Elisabeth Lange and Kipara from Tanzania gave lessons to the children on African dance, which was very interesting and well received. In addition, an African cuisine was also prepared for A-DN, by Thomas Omondi, who made ugali na kuku and chapatti with maandazi for dessert. The arrangements were followed by various workshops, where children learned to play African drums, African dance, face painting, and many other activities. The day ended with the best pupil being invited to make the speech about Karen Blixen and her passion for children's education in Africa, and who was awarded a diploma for the effort.

### **2.0.2 Aalborg International Dansens dage**

International dansens dage was scheduled for the 29th of April till the 2nd of May. They were days, where the world, including Aarhus, Odense and København celebrated "Dansens dage". In Aalborg, A-DN in cooperation with Søren Milgaard from Dan Event managed to make this day a success too. Søren Milgaard, Thomas Omondi and Kareem Saeed together with the children from Filstedvejens Skole with their teacher Malene came smilingly to Dan Events office to

celebrate this day. The African drums, dancing, and music were played through the streets from Danmarksgade to Frederikstorv and on to Nytorv. It was lovely to see one of the children in a wheelchair supporting his broken leg determined to come and enjoy himself anyway. The dancing march ended at 16:00 hrs in Nytorv with ice cream, cakes and soft drinks. On the 1st of May, A-DN together with other organisations was invited to Louise Plads, where different dancers from Nordjylland were performing. Although the turn-out was not entirely to everyone's satisfaction, A-DN made an African cuisine, which was enjoyed by everyone.

### **2.0.3 A-DN's participation in new musical art in 'Platform 4'**

On May 6th 2009, Thomas Omondi, Kareem Saeed and Mavi Ya Mvuzi introduced their music to Platform 4. The main objectives of this event were to provide the opportunity for the exchange of new ideas between artists. On the 13th of May 2009 Thomas Omondi and Mavi Ya Mvuzi performed for 30 minutes with their experimental house music with African beat. The event was well received by the audience. They were able to give a good demonstration for their music to Platform 4 and the audience enjoyed indeed.

## **3.0 A-DN's integration project**

### **3.0.1 Vejgaard Østre Skole**

A-DN in cooperation with Vejgaard Østre Skole (DUS C) started African Dance project on the 17 of March 2009, which was supposed to end on the 5th May. The deadline was however postponed, because both the children and their pedagogues suggested continuing with the project. It consists of 15-17 children between 8-12 years, and takes place every Tuesday from 13:00-14:00. The project will then be evaluated after Market Fair on the 30th of May. 2009. The survey will be conducted through A-DN's established indicators in order to measure performance and achievement. Interviews and/or the preparation of questionnaires by children, pedagogues and instructors will be made as well. Evaluation reports will then offer recommendations on robustness, continuity and sustainability of the project. Decisions will be made after the review.

### **3.0.2 Filstedvejens Skole**

A-DN in cooperation with Filstedvejens Skole (DUS) started African Dance on the 4th of April 2009, ending on the 19th of June. The project consists of 15-17 children between 8-12 years, and takes place every Friday from 13:00-15:30. The

project will be evaluated on the 19th May. Regrettably, Filstedvejens skole will not be performing at the MARKET FAIR as planned, but rather they have decided to do so at the closing celebration, where Kareem Saeed will make an African cuisine and parents will be invited to see their children perform.

### **3.0.3 Market Fair 2009**

**Black! Or White! The decision is yours....!**

*Market Fair at Gammeltorv, Saturday the 30th May. 2009*

A-DN is working very hard to the promotion of friendship and exchange of culture, arts, education and professional relationships between Danes and Africans. In fact A-DN has arranged a wonderful Fair at the heart of Aalborg city - Gammeltorv in order to not only increase its visibility but also because it believes that:

#### **Culture is fun!**

Africans and Danes can meet on mutual grounds, hear about and derive pleasure, friendship and exchange of mutual interests in the differing cultures. Diversity is no longer a weakness, but a strength in itself.

#### **Content of the Fair!**

We have succeeded in arranging a number of different booths which will be offering a number of interesting and exciting activities in addition to a variety of delicious foods. We will also have a prominent visitor, no less a person than His Excellency the Ambassador for Uganda, Joseph Tomusange. We will also enjoy the presence of our own MF, Orla Hav, and Professor Johannes Schmidt of Aalborg University, all of whom will be addressing the audience at the Fair. We are most honoured by their presence and interest. During the day, passers-by will be able to enjoy the experience of African and Danish dances performed by the House of Dance, Pole Pole, Folkedansere from Rebild, the Masai warriors, and lovely children from Vejgaard Østre School. The Fair will be wrapped in African music and rhythms provided by DJ Thomas Omondi.

#### **Expand your horizons!**

A-DN hopes that you will be able to expand your horizons by joining and participating in this Fair, where you will have the opportunity to make new contacts and acquire useful information which may be of future use, especially to those who have current interests in the African continent or are considering travelling to Africa for a variety of reasons.

### **Enjoy African rhythms**

The Fair will end with dancing to the music of a Danish artist with deep roots in East Africa and African rhythms. Mzungu Kichaa (swahili for 'Crazy White Man'), who has lived with the Masai, toured a lot in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, and who is one of the pioneers of African Bongo Flava will be performing.

## **4.0 Development projects**

### **4.0.1 Ziwani Primary & Secondary School, Pemba - Tanzania**

We would also like to convey our thanks and gratitude to all our sponsors for their financial support for the children and the youth of Ziwani Primary & Secondary School. We hope that these resources will help to give them an opportunity to acquire a better education and training and improve the educational prospects for the future generation.

### **A-DN's sponsorship to Pemba project**

<b>Sponsors</b>
1. Individual contribution
2. Royal Canin Danmark A/S
3. Solo Grafisk A/S
4, Randers Sports A/S

Having said all that, we are now appealing to you all as members, for your support and assistance in the collection of school equipment and materials, which may include used PCs and laptops, which can be forwarded to Ziwani Primary and Secondary School. You may engage in this by contacting your network or your nearest school asking for any usable school materials which are no longer in use, and then by contacting us via [info@african-danish-network.dk](mailto:info@african-danish-network.dk) to make further collection arrangements. Any help, large or small is welcome indeed and will be highly appreciated.

Remember that if you have any ideas about the sort of things that you would most like to see or know about in the periodical newsletter; please do not hesitate to let us know.

Thank you all so much and I hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter