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A-DN News

Highlights: December 2009



Volunteers at Market Fair 2009

1.0 Introduction

The biggest challenge for the year 2009 was the fact that it has been very hard to motivate and encourage African immigrants in Aalborg to get involved in organisational work, and even worse, it has been even harder to motivate them to work on a voluntary basis. What we have learned is that Denmark has a strong culture of voluntary work, which may be rather new to us, but we are trying to learn, understand and adapt it in our organisation as well, because we believe that voluntary work has a strong positive impact on the organisation as a whole. It is a “win-win” situation. It is value-added, when African immigrants are dedicated and committed to the organisation and work on a voluntary

1

African-Danish Network

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basis, being able to not only promote positive integration, but also applying African perspective in solving some of development challenges in their countries of origin. However, we are still determined to continue with this hard work and hope that in time we will be able to accomplish this.

2.0 Voluntary Support and Assistance

The core element of African-Danish Network is to find loyal and committed volunteers to assist this organisation to accomplish its objectives. It has been very hard indeed to find African volunteers to work for this organisation; most of them who came tend to demand payments for their services, which in turn distorted the basic existence and moral value of A-DN's work. Although we encountered so many difficulties, with the help and assistance of the few loyal volunteers we managed to accomplish some of A-DN's goals. We therefore offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to Charlotte and Peter Jensen including their two daughters - Bettina and Trina Jensen, Pastor Lee Hanson, MF Orla Hav (S), Michael Appiah, Hamad Hamad, Rosey and René Brodersen, Bernard Ruppert O'Carroll, Rikke Hansen and Nicolai Hedevang Nielsen, Jallow Amadou, Johannes Jensen, Sandro Masai, Sophie Bogø Rahbek Mortensen and Niels Dyrskjøt, all of them worked so hard in so many ways to assist A-DN in making a difference. Without their loyalty, commitment, kind help, support and assistance, nothing could have been made possible, THANK YOU.

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Sophie & Niels Dyrskjøt



Michael Appiah



Charlotte & Peter Jensen

3.0 General Assembly

The general assembly was held as planned. We had a successful meeting with many members turning up, but as usual, not enough. The meeting led to several changes being made to the Constitution, and most essentially to the membership fees. It was generally agreed that membership categories should be reduced from four to three and that the new membership fees should be as follows:

- i) Regular Membership 200 kr. p.a.
- ii) Family Membership 300 kr. p.a.
- iii) Organisation/Institution 500 kr. p.a.

Note: It was also agreed that the membership fees should be adjusted in accordance with inflation in future, which will be done at the Annual General Meeting.

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In addition, some changes were made to the Committee as well. New Committee members were elected and are as follows:

- i) Jeanne Dyrskjøt, President
- ii) Peter Jensen, Treasurer
- iii) Torben Ertmann, Secretary
- iv) Rikke Hansen, ex-officio member
- v) Paul Long, ex-officio member

We hope that this team will succeed in reaching out to our target groups and thereby be able to achieve our intended goals.

4.0 Social Event - 5/12

4.0.1 The Main Objectives



Did we achieve our intended goals? We can proudly say, YES WE DID! How can we measure a degree of success? Firstly, by looking at the attendance. Although not many refugees from Brovst Asylcenter, Tranum attended, a large number of Danes, African immigrants and other minority groups from our community turned up. Secondly, we managed to create a sound future basis for constructive cooperation,

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based on mutual respect and understanding with Brovst Asylcenter. In effect, we send our thanks and gratitude to Brovst Asylcenter for their kind help, support and assistance to this event.

Thirdly, we succeeded in creating an encouraging environment for social exchange, social interaction, networking and friendship, together with a fine touch



of African and Danish cuisine, music and dance for refugees and other guests from our community. Fourthly, we have learned something new especially in relation to how A-DN could help improve integration opportunities for refugees and other minority groups in our community. In this occasion, we had an honour of having PHD, Fellow A. Osman Farah, as the prominent guest, with Prof. Mammo Muchie, as a special guest in addressing the assembly. These scholars presented some very interesting and motivating views on this theme. It has been recognised that a bottom-up approach was a most important feature of integration process and that it was very important for African immigrants to establish or create a strong and coherent African Platform and real policy prescriptions in order to further African interests in this community. If this platform has to be value added, there was also a need for a change of attitude among our focal group – Africans. It is understandable that most African immigrants are pessimistic, as they face different challenges in adapting to new environments, and because of these many challenges, they become too individualistic, rational, utility maximizers, as they become mostly preoccupied in finding ways to survive and how best, they can do to support their families in their countries of origin. What can A-DN do to promote a much more positive

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integration? A-DN needs to provide a conducive, sound and positive environment for African Diaspora. It needs to encourage and motivate group spirit and mind set, providing them a sense of being and belonging, a key to success. African immigrants must unite, they must establish one strong voice in order to not only impact positively to integration process in Denmark but also engage more efficiently and effectively in sustainable development to their countries of origin.

4.0.2 Social Exchange



A-DN managed to meet the above mentioned goal as well. Most of refugees were able to integrate themselves, create new networks, friendships and had an excellent time together with other guests from our community. We just had a good time. We therefore send our thanks and gratitude to Pastor Lee Hanson and Pastor Kevin for their most splendid

conducting and assistance as Masters of Ceremonies. Our thanks also go to Carol McCook and Elvis Tambe Tabot for preparing an excellent Cameroonian and Danish cuisine. Gehan Alsadat and her family, who included their wonderful cuisine from Eritrea and other countries.



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Valeria and Antonio who presented a superb cuisine from Italy. It has been very hard indeed, but they managed to make enough food for all the guests who came to this event. Our thanks also go Lucy Tobiasen, an African professional artist for presenting a wonderful fashion show for the evening and her wonderful gala and confirmation dresses, being a good example of a success story towards more positive integration. We have now managed to show the positive image of African pride. Our thanks too, to the fashion show models Emilia Long, McKenzie Long, Katarina Poulsen, Aggar, Sophie Bogø Rahbek Mortensen, Stine, Christina, and most importantly our heartfelt thanks go to our most important 8 year old model guest - Mahmoud Alsadat who helped to make the show most interesting, enjoyable and exciting indeed. Our thanks also go to Denzil McCook, for his wonderful performance of Rap music. Many thanks also go to Carol McCook and Colin for their performance of African dance and Sandro Masai for his performance of modern dance. Lastly, our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers, who worked so hard in so many different ways to make this event possible and successful.



7

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5.0 Renewable Energy Technology - Thy

The main objective of this trip is to encourage and motivate African immigrants to participate and explore the renewable energy system, such as solar energy, biogas, biomass, wind energy, plant oil or waste heat from industry, etc, being a clean environmental friendly and sustainable solution to solve some of African structural obstacles or challenges. Renewable Energy is highly economical and it provides a sustainable electricity supply, enabling environment for future investment opportunities, improve educational, health and sanitation standards and infrastructure facilities, etc. being beneficial to the poor and their local communities and hence be in a better position to assist our countries of origin. Having said that, we are pleased to tell you that our information trip to the renewable energy industry in Thy is now on the line and we can now confirm that the trip is scheduled for Wednesday, the 27th of January. 2010 and you can now make your registration through info@african-danish-network.dk or contact Paul Long at +45 28 97 87 79. Transportation will be provided from 10:00 am at Bus Terminal by Kennedy Arcade in Aalborg. If you have friends that are interested, they will be welcome. The bus will leave at 10:30 on the dot and will not wait. Please be there in time.

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6.0 Pemba project

We have now received all necessary documentation confirming that the cargo for school-equipments has arrived in Zanzibar and final arrangements are now in place to ship the equipments to Ziwani School. Regrettably, there have been several unexpected delays in getting all the procedures done but with the cooperation from Ministry of Education Zanzibar



we managed to get tax-and-duty free import for this container. We would therefore like to thank our sponsors, Royal Canin Danmarks A/S, Solo Grafisk A/S, Randers Sport A/S, Mellem Folkeligt Samvirke, Blue Water Shipping A/S and Aalborg University for their support and commitment to this project. We would like to rest them assured that

these equipments

are in good hands and that they are on the way to Ziwani School for the benefit of the pupils and teachers of the School.

Below also find a tax-exemption document from the Ministry of Education, Zanzibar.



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SERIKALI YA MAPINDUZI YA ZANZIBAR

Simu: (024) 2231169/74
Fax No. (024) 2230546,
2231174

WIZARA YA FEDHA NA UCHUMI
S.L.B. 1154/874
ZANZIBAR

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NAIBU KAMISHNA,
IDARA YA FORODHA,
MAMLAKA YA MAPATO,
ZANZIBAR.-

KUH: MSAMAHA WA USHURU WA FORODHA NA VAT

Ruhusa inatolewa kwa Skuli ya Ziwani "Primary/ Secondary School" kupitia Wizara ya Elimu na Mafunzo ya Amali kutoa bandarini bila ya kulipia kodi zilizotajwa hapo juu kwa kuingiza nchini "Vifaa vya matumizi ya Skuli".

Sea WayBill no. MSCUR0198938 ya tarehe 20/9/2009 inahusika

Nyaraka zinazohusika zitawasilishwa na wahusika.

DR. MWINYIHAJI MAKAME
{Dr. Mwinyihaji Makame}
WAZIRI WA NCHI (AR),
ANAESHUGHULIKIA FEDHA NA UCHUMI,
ZANZIBAR.

Nakala:

Katibu Mkuu,
Wizara ya Elimu na Mafunzo ya Amali,
Zanzibar.

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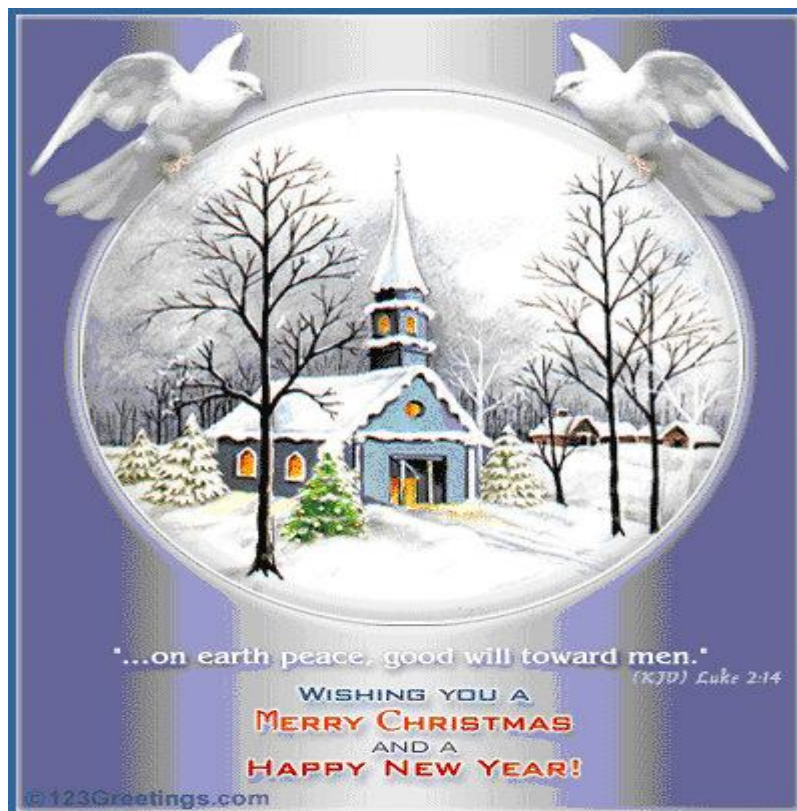


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7.0 Christmas Cheer!

2009 has been a hard year, with ups and downs. However, with the kind help of our volunteers, we have managed to pull our resources together and make a difference in our own small way. We do hope that they will continue to assist A-DN in the year 2010 as well. We would therefore like to complete this year by wishing all committed volunteers and members:

**A Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and
A Prosperous New Year 2010**



Kind regards

A-DN Committee

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