



For a human development incorporating environmental protection

NEWSLETTER N017

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SPECIAL
SHARING OF EXPERIENCES

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

The luncheon of the College of Experts of the Foundation, now a ritual event, provides the Members and the Board of Directors with the opportunity of having an open discussion with those actively engaged on the ground in Development.

This new edition, with its theme of innovative social entrepreneurship, enabled us to compare different experiences such as the eco-construction in bamboo of a school in Nepal (see P. 2, Address by N. Délia Wenta), access to energy for the most impoverished (see P. 3, Address by O. Kayser) and the fight against deforestation associated with a community approach (see P. 3, Address by B. Sachet). These speeches provoked numerous questions. We are delighted by the reaction to these initiatives and by the ties established among those present.

The outcome of these lively exchanges, demonstrated the importance of an approach combining social, environmental and economic imperatives. Since it is obvious that we must be tuned in to the needs of local populations, doing everything possible to improve their living conditions and their environment, it is equally essential that we give them the means to organize and develop production in line with the expectations of the market and generate activities which will create employment. This initiative, which is central to our new call for projects, is our priority.

Read on and enjoy,

Jacqueline Délia Brémont
Vice-President

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

OUR COLLEGE
OF EXPERTS, AT THE
HEART OF SHARING
EXPERIENCES ...

Africa and Water

The series, *Tomorrow, Africa*, invites us to discover an Africa, that moves, that advances, a Continent that is a major actor in the XXI Century. Do not miss the forthcoming publication of the book *Africa and Water*, a collective work co-edited by Claude Jamati.

For more information see
www.bourin-editeurs.fr

Agriculture and Climatic Hazards

The review, *Grain de Sel*, with which Christophe Jacqmin is associated, dedicates an entire number to this problem, to the effects on the farmers and the strategies for adaptation which could be envisaged. A gold mine of information which can be downloaded from:

www.inter-reseaux.org

SUMMARY

Life of the Foundation: Report of the Annual Luncheon of the College of Experts: *Is it possible to reconcile sustainable human development and respect for the environment with profitability?*

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Welcome: The Foundation welcomes 9 new partners, resulting from the last Programmes Commission of the month of June.

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Quotes: *The Benefits of Purified Water.* Eyewitness accounts from the beneficiaries of the new water purification system installed in the Shechen Clinic in Katmandu, Nepal.

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◀ **Mr. G. Brémond, President of Fondation Ensemble, expressed his enthusiasm, his gratitude and reiterated his support for the effort of working together for sustainable human development.**



(1) Jacqueline Délia Brémond, Vice-President

(2) Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, member of the Board of Directors

(3) Philippe Lévêque, General Director, Care France

LIFE OF THE FOUNDATION

Is it possible to reconcile human sustainable development and respect for the environment with profitability?

The Annual Luncheon of the College of Experts of Fondation Ensemble was held on 17 September. The three speeches, which predominated the meeting, demonstrated that innovation and profitability can go hand in hand with sustainability. Report...

This time for sharing experiences was introduced by the founder members, Mr. Gérard Brémond, President of Fondation Ensemble and Mrs. Jacqueline Délia Brémond, Vice-President, who warmly thanked each member of the College of Experts for their involvement.

Mr. G. Brémond underlined the importance of their advice, *which contributes more and more to investment decisions.* He concluded in expressing *his gratitude for the work done by all of them. The results are extremely exciting thanks to the team work of both those inside and outside the Foundation.*

Mrs. J. Délia Brémond hailed the College of Experts of the Foundation and listed their *three precious contributions to the Foundation: some of their time, a lot of their attention and all their knowledge and experience. It is thanks to our College that the Foundation so rarely errs in its choices and thanks also to its Team that most of the 130 projects of the Foundation, already completed or in progress, accomplish their overall objectives.*

The floor was given to Nathalie Délia Wenta, a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, who came to share the first results of the programme: *Construction of a Bamboo School in Chitwan, Nepal.*

**Address by
Nathalie Délia Wenta**

Nathalie Délia Wenta stressed the important fact that the children here would never have had access to education, particularly girls. This project has been established in one of the most remote and backward regions of Nepal.

With a report of the visit in hand, each participant was able to see photographs taken on site, illustrating the importance and appeal of this project. Some figures mentioned gave a clear picture: each day 2,000 children, between 3 and 18 years of age, are welcomed at this school, which is supervised by 70 teachers.

I saw the happiness of the students there, added N. Délia Wenta. How can one reward the efforts of Mr. Uttam, the initiator of this project, who has carried most of the burden for 5 years, obtaining private donations with no contribution from the State? He only asks 1 Euro a month of each family. An amount, which seems so little, but which only half of the families can afford.

Another point worth noting about this project: Its eco-construction. In all, 60 bamboo cabins and 12 eco-toilets, all built over an area of 8,000 square meters.



Nathalie Délia Wenta, member of the Board of Directors

“Today, this project allows 25,000 children to have an education in 8 establishments. The goal is to create 70 schools, one in each region of Nepal.”

N. Délia Wenta noted the numerous advantages of bamboo, its flexibility, its durability and its natural beauty.

Mr. Utam’s goal is to build schools in every region of Nepal. This makes a projected total of 70 schools. Gérard Brémond noted this fine achievement, its exceptional efficiency and the ease with which this model can be reproduced.



(1) François Münger, SDC (Suisse)

(2) Gérard Worms, member of the Board of Directors

(3) Marie-Christine Huau, Véolia Eau

“We wanted the study *Access to Energy for the Base of the Pyramid* to be accessible to the maximum number of people”.

Olivier Kayser
Director of Hystra

Download this study on :
www.hystra.com



(continued from page 2)

Address by Olivier Kayser Hystra

“Over the course of my professional life, I have been fascinated by the innovative capacity of social entrepreneurs. At the same time, I have been frustrated by the fact that I did not see the trajectory which could have allowed them to reach the scale necessary to foresee and solve the problems of our planet.”

The study *Access to Energy for the Base of the Pyramid*, which can be downloaded from the Hystra Web site, is a first response. This study demonstrates the experiment undertaken by Hystra, in partnership with 3 large French Industrial Groups, in the area of access to energy. We have completed a survey, on a global scale, of social innovations which will allow energy to be supplied to the most destitute populations. These solutions must meet 3 criteria: Allow access to energy, be potentially profitable, have the ability to be replicated on a large scale, without constraints on rare resources. In total, 150 projects have been studied, with the support of the Ashoka network.”

Among these, two particular examples illustrated O. Kayser’s presentation: Selco and Grameen Shakti, concerning solar electricity. The key discovery of these projects is to have started out from a base of what the beneficiary populations can manage to pay for them and to have already researched what can be done to improve them. In summary, 2.5 million people, i.e. 500,000 homes, are today equipped with a photovoltaic system, which sells for \$300, reimbursed by monthly payments of \$8, being the equivalent cost of their previous consumption of kerosene, batteries or candles. These are profitable programmes. But how do we give them the means to go much further? What model should be put

in place to transform this innovation to a much larger scale? We are counting on the participation of large international groups. Since it is here that we can find the real global players. Endeavours are already in the works to establish less expensive models, i.e. “plug and play”. Distribution will be through the most efficient and speedy means. O. Kayser concluded: We have now been in existence for one and a half years. We have been able to involve 8 of the 40 big French Groups. This demonstrates the extremely high level of interest that our initiatives have aroused!

Mr. Gérard Worms, acknowledging this high level of interest, in turn described a similar project being studied in Burkina Faso. It is clear that the ability to replicate these projects on a grand scale is the principal difficulty to overcome, he emphasized.

Address by Bastien Sachet The Forest Trust (TFT)

Today, 10 million hectares of forest disappear every year. What we do not yet fully comprehend is the extent to which our methods of consumption are tied to the forest and its survival.

B. Sachet listed our consumption of wood, food and leather products. The goal of TFT is to take an active interest in these consumer habits and to develop solutions, taking a new approach to marketing, which would benefit both local populations and their environment. B. Sachet illustrated this approach with the TFT project supported by the Fondation Ensemble in Laos.

The problem posed was the following: How to enable Laotian families to obtain a direct benefit from the exploitation of their forest patrimony, through developing consumption

which would respect their environment? Close by, in Vietnam, there is a massive, continual flow of wood circulating, coming from all over the world, for conversion to product. Our approach was to study how the local populations could benefit from this flow and how to integrate community programmes into the supply system of distributors. Answer: by obtaining the certification FSC, the indispensable requirement to access international markets, without going through local traders. In all, 10,000 hectares are concerned.

After intense reflection by TFT with the families involved, setting our sights on an improved adaptation of the product for the market (quality of species, felling and thinning out) allowing them to produce together enough volume to negotiate to their advantage. Today it works! The volume of sales has been multiplied by 3 to the benefit of the community, whose management respects the environment.

Following the example of the programme conducted in Indonesia, in which TFT no longer needs to be involved. The final result is the ability to replicate...

“We are leading community exploitation of forests towards FSC Certification, in order to give them access to international markets”.

Bastien Sachet
Director of Development
The Forest Trust



To learn more :
www.tft-forests.org





All our congratulations to our partner, Rainforest Alliance, for winning the "Ties Innovation Award 2010", for their initiatives in Ecotourism.

Access to drinking water and sanitation, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, alternative waste management, community management of biodiversity, as many as all the areas concerned by the call for projects pursued by the Foundation. All on a background of innovation...

Water and sanitation, the first areas of intervention by the Foundation, with 66% of committed investment over the last 6 years.

QUOTES

The Benefits of Purified Water...

On 18 February 2009, the Shechen Clinic in Katmandu, Nepal, inaugurated a new system for the purification of water.

A big change for this establishment and for the Shechen Monastery located nearby! Herewith, a guided visit by some of the beneficiaries, in the form of eyewitness accounts. Extracts...



Thanks to this system for water purification, we have a permanent supply of high quality water. In all, 6,000 liters a day are produced in this hospital establishment and are distributed throughout the different services: its use is reserved for patients and visitors, the kitchen and for palliative care.

We produce more purified water than the Clinic needs. In order not to waste this precious water, we have decided to make it available to the personnel and to the monks at the Monastery, for the modest sum of 2 rupees per liter (compared to 15 in the shops).

Today, episodes of diarrhea have become much less frequent. The Shechen Clinic has now had this water purification system for one year and it has brought great joy to the personnel, the patients, their families and to the monks at the Monastery.

With a total of 141 Partnerships (93 Programmes and 48 Microprogrammes), the Foundation has a total investment of 16,063,320 million euros. Detailed below are the 9 Programmes selected during the Programmes Commission of last June.

1001 Fontaines pour demain (1001 Fountains for tomorrow)

Cambodia. Production of drinking water for 28 new village sites, in addition to the 30, already in existence. This means 30,000 to 40,000 beneficiaries and 60 jobs and activities generating revenue.

Aquassistance

Mali. Construction of wells, solar pumps, creation of mini-reserves of drinkable water, reservoirs, fire-hydrants, sanitation systems in the villages of Kafarcirga (2,450 inhabitants) and Djoume (600 inhabitants).

Inter Aide

Malawi. Distribution of an ingenious pumping system, facilitating access to drinking water for 3.75 million users of existing rural, hydraulic works. Creation of a local network of craftsmen for maintenance and for the distribution of spare parts.

Protos

Niger. Integrated management of water resources in the interior Delta of Niger. 30 villages: 20,000 to 30,000 beneficiaries.

WELCOME...

The Commission of June 2010 has Selected 9 New Partnerships

Entrepreneurs du Monde (Entrepreneurs of the World)

Burkina Faso. Production of improved portable gas vector stoves, through local economic development and sustainable exploitation of forest resources.

Geres

Cambodia. Development of a production network for high quality palm sugar (guaranteed), using improved kilns. 3,000 families would benefit.

Solar Aid

Malawi. Access to solar electricity for 50,000 people from the most underprivileged rural communities. Establishment of a network of local contractors.

Concern Universal

Malawi. Development of different types of renewable energy in the district of Balaska. 180,370 village beneficiaries. 8,000 students and 40 teachers, supplied with solar energy.

AVSF

Mali. Diversification and promotion of sustainable agricultural networks and poultry farming in 20 villages in the Region of Kayes.

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