



N. 12 N.E. - JULY AUGUST 2009

THE COURIER

THE MAGAZINE OF AFRICA - CARIBBEAN - PACIFIC & EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION AND RELATIONS

REPORT

Samoa Making waves

DOSSIER

Education A colossal task

DISCOVERING EUROPE

Art of excess Naples puts on an act

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Samoan woman in traditional dress, 2009. © Debra Percival

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Naples Art of excess
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"All dedicated to past Saints or Saints to be... San Genaro patron
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Published every two months in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese

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Publisher responsible

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Consortium

Gopa-Cartermill - Grand Angle - Lai-momo

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Objective: people's world is the title of a photographic exhibition produced by the UN and sponsored by the Italian foreign ministry's Directorate General for Development Cooperation. Twenty-four internationally famous photographers have donated the 60 photos, that tell the stories of men and women from Biafra to Bolivia, from Slovakia to the United States and from Palestine to Niger, and the poverty and opulence of a global world of inequality.

Didier Ruef, Angola, 2000. © Didier Ruef. From the exhibit catalogue *Objective: people's world*. 24 photographers in action. Courtesy of World Health Organization 2003

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Cultural centre promoting artists from countries in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and cultural exchanges between communities through performance arts, music, cinema, to the holding of conferences. It is a meeting place for Belgians, immigrants of diverse origins and European officials.

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Marie-Martine Buckens

Leading women, artisan women



Aïchatou Boulama Kané.
© Marie-Martine Buckens

Aïchatou Boulama Kané is a fighter. Through her extensive experience in the government – as Director of Crafts at the Ministry of Economic Promotion and Secretary of State of Planning – and in managing in particular EC-financed projects, this economist from Niger has amassed experience to promote the status of women. And not only that of women in Niger but in the whole African continent. Her tool: crafts and culture. Her platform: the Salon International de l'Artisanat pour la Femme (SAFEM – www.safem.info), which will hold its sixth edition from 30 October to 8 November 2009 in Niamey, the capital city of Niger.

“We expect some 25 African countries and anticipate 700 exhibitors – 75% of whom are women – and more than 70,000 visitors”, explains Mrs Kané as she takes us to the Centre des Métiers du Cuir et d'art du Niger, which is at a stone's throw from the SAFEM head offices. Thirty or so artisans from around Niger work there under the leadership of French designer Katherine Pradeau who has an in-depth knowledge of crafts in the country. “We want to give these women the opportunity to adapt their know-how to today's market. They will work here for a month before returning in late October to put the finishing touches to their collections, which will be presented on a catwalk and a sale during the exhibition”.

According to the SAFEM coordinator, this initiative is “the start of something that is bound to grow”. Her long experience on site has enabled her to contact these women.

“We carried out data collecting missions on these artisan women, very often structured in associations. These women are very interesting, and feel their status is increased by their trade”. The greatest difficulty in getting them to come to Niamey was convincing their family circles: “the husband on his own is not always the issue, but he is often under the influence of the social environment around him”.

Mrs Kané aims at transforming these women into leaders. “It is not always easy, because these women are very much marginalised because the sector in which they work – crafts – is marginalised. By becoming leaders, they will mobilise consumers, since they are both producers and consumers, and thus in a position to bring in change”. The director of the exhibition, a woman leader herself, knows exactly what this means, as she fought both on site and with political authorities so that women – whose role is vital in Niger's agricultural and pastoral economy – could have their say.

This battle has proved worthwhile. Whereas there was only one woman out of the 83 deputies of Niger in 2000, today, 13 women sit on the National

Assembly and 8 in the government – and the President of the Constitutional Court is a woman: Fatimata Salifou Basseï.



Artisans in the Centre des Métiers du Cuir et d'Art du Niger.
© Marie-Martine Buckens

With more than 200 trades, craft in Niger is a diversified sector par excellence. More than 700,000 people (out of a population of 14 million) work in some 360,000 micro enterprises, 68% of which are owned by women. In Niger, like in many other African countries, crafts substantially contribute to the GDP (23% in Niger).



Poster of DevDays in Strasbourg. © EC

European Development Days (EDD) has become a key event on the international development policy stage. Its newly-appointed head of organisation, or 'Mr EDD', is Maciej Popowski, Director in the European Commission's Directorate General for Development with responsibility for policy coherence for development, aid effectiveness, relations with member states and other donors as well as for public communication on development. He spoke to us about his task in preparing the fourth edition to be held in the Swedish capital Stockholm, 22-24 October.

The EDD has become a renowned event. Is it a challenge to take up the baton?

Indeed the EDD is already renowned which is quite an achievement given that this will only be the 4th such event. With over 4,000 participants, including Heads of State and leading world figures, plus 1,500 organisations taking part annually, this is now a key date in the calendar of the international development community. The support of the EU Member States has been crucial to this success; since 2007 the successive presidencies of the EU have co-hosted the event. And as you know this year we are working with the Swedish presidency to hold the event in Stockholm from 22 to 24 October. A challenge? Yes. But one which we have risen to since 2006 and with an experienced and enthusiastic team behind me I am looking forward to a successful gathering in Stockholm.

What innovations are in store for the EDD?

We will continue with the tried and tested recipe of inviting leaders from all over the world to the event to ensure our voice is widely heard and the message of development is spread in the right fora. Mr Barroso, President of the European Commission and Mr Reinfeldt, the Swedish Prime Minister, will open the event. One of the main discussions will focus on climate change; coming just 6 weeks before the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this is a pivotal time. We are expecting lively debates on the impact of the financial crisis on the developing world. It also happens in the context of a new institutional setting with a newly elected European Parliament in place; a new European Commission about to take office and new figures at the helm in USAID and UNDP. Finally, we will present the first European Development Report and the second Policy Coherence for Development report together with the latest Eurobarometer survey on Member State attitudes to development aid in a time of crisis.

What is the final objective of the EDD: A vehicle to inform the public about the European Commission's development policy, or a development project in itself?

The main aim has always been to get key thinkers and policy makers from all over the globe to address the issues of the day.

Mr DevDays

interview by Hegel Goutier

This will not change. Having attracted such high profile personalities such as Archbishop Desmond Tuto, Kofi Annan and Morgan Tsvangirai in the past, this year will be no different giving all participants the opportunity to network, share ideas and propose common solutions to common problems.

In light of the current economic crisis which is threatening development aid commitments, do you foresee proposals coming from the EDD to reform development institutions?

By then, the Pittsburgh summit of G20 leaders in September will have taken place as well as the World Bank and IMF meetings in Istanbul where reform will have been discussed. The European Commission has already addressed the current economic crisis; on 8 April a number of concrete actions were identified which were later endorsed by the Development Ministers' meeting in May. This comes on top of the adoption of the Food Facility allocation of €1bn aimed at increasing food production by distributing seeds and fertilizers to small farmers and the upcoming EU vulnerability FLEX instrument for which €500M has been allocated aimed at guaranteeing social services including health and housing in poor ACP countries most severely hit by the crisis; this work will complement the World Bank, IMF and Regional Development Banks' initiatives.



Mr. Popowski at the Strasbourg edition of European Development Days (15-17 November 2008). © EC

New actors are entering the development arena such as China, Brazil and Venezuela. How can this new phenomenon tackled by the EDD?

By inviting key policy makers from these countries in order to ensure that all our development policy is complementary and not competitive, EDD can make a difference. With a common approach more can be done. Only last year the European Commission started a dialogue with China and Africa on development. We truly believe that by working together, for example by building huge infrastructure projects such as dams or roads, we can make a difference. If we work independently, there is always a risk of having many small projects being implemented in parallel. We believe in economies of scale which can be achieved by working together. This is the approach we follow within the European Union, with our 27 Member States as proposed in our Code of Conduct on division of labour in 2007.



| Didier Ruef, *Angola*, 2000. © Didier Ruef

Man is the measure of all things



Without wanting to alter the usual contents of the magazine for readers too much, two additional rubrics will from now on regularly feature to highlight personalities who are closely involved in development. To cite the Greek philosopher Protagoras: “Man is the measure of all things”.

The magazine opens with ‘Profile’, one of the new rubrics. It describes two actors who have brought their commitment, energy and individual human qualities to the development process. In this issue, the spotlight is on the figurehead of the European Development Days event whose acronym in English, DevDays, has now entered everyday language. Alongside ‘Mr DevDays’, we highlight a Nigerian economist and craftsperson who is campaigning to improve the status of African women. In the other new rubric, we intend to hone in on the vigour of the civil society sector.

The new face of the European Parliament in the wake of elections is this issue’s main news item. Its President is the first from an Eastern European country. He is a former human rights’ campaigner and member of the Trades Union, Solidarnosc, banned during the period of the Communist regime. His reputation as a humanist is such that opposing political groups, like the Greens, chose to elect him as President of the Parliament on the basis on his courage and individual spirit.

Society in the small Pacific state of Samoa, featured in this issue’s Country Report, is noted for its respect for the *Fa’afafine* who due to their effeminism would face considerable prejudice elsewhere. The special report deals with the ‘Colossal project of education’ which *par excellence* is devoted to mankind’s commitment to advancing humanity. Education should, in principle, be an individual right but this is far from becoming a reality any time soon. UNESCO is signalling that the gulf between the rich and poor countries in the field is widening. Numerous things are jeopardising targets and above all, a lack of finance. There is not a single country in West Africa, for example, that has reached the aim of committing ‘7 per cent its GDP to education’.

In this issue, in the ‘Discovering Europe’ rubric, we feature Naples with its art of excess and the capital of the lovely region of Campania. It has a reputation for being a sulphurous city, yet it is people-friendly simply by its warmth; anyone living there seemingly quickly embraced as Neapolitan. Of course, as anywhere in the world, discrimination does exist. But there are many defending the rights of an individual simply because he or she is a human being. One such person is the city’s Episcopal vicar who recalls that when solicited to come to the aid of an immigrant, his guiding principle is the first divine commandment; to respect and welcome a fellow human being. Coming back to Protagoras...

Hegel Goutier
Editor-in-chief



The nine lives of LUISA MORGANTINI

After having spent ten years at the European Parliament defending the rights of the oppressed and battling for a more equitable cooperation with the ACP, fiery Luisa Morgantini, who will celebrate her 70th birthday in a little more than a year, should take some well-deserved rest now that she retires. But knowing her, rest is the last thing on her mind.

Marie-Martine Buckens and Joshua Massarenti

The Italian deputy's combat goes back well before 1999 when she was elected to the European Parliament as an 'independent' MP on the list of the Rifondazione Comunista. Luisa Morgantini learned to fight for justice in the cradle. She tells *The Courier*: "I was born on 5 November 1940 in Villadossola, into a family of partisans. Three years later, after the armistice, my hometown was declared 'first partisan Republic'", a reference that fills her with pride.

Luisa Morgantini has not stopped since. After studying industrial sociology and economy at Oxford's Ruskin College, she was a trade union leader for the metalworkers unitarian trade union. This captivating job does not keep her away from numerous peace associations. Amongst others, she is cofounder of the international movement

'Women in black – for Justice against War', and is election observer at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). It would seem that she entered the parliament by chance: "to tell you the truth, I did not think that I would find myself in the European Parliament, as this was not my ambition. I saw myself continuing my fight in civil society. Fausto Bertinotti, Secretary General of the Communist Party, asked me to enrol on the list as an independent MP, to fight the growing threat of militarism in the very heart of the institutions."

➤ **The Altiero Spinelli legacy**

This being said, she continues, "I have always been a convinced European in the lineage of Altiero Spinelli's European thought, in defending values that, in my mind, are often left in the background because of a com-

mercial logic. Before sitting in Strasbourg or Brussels, I was very involved in civil rights battles. Thus, it was only logical that my combat at the heart of the European institutions should focus on the necessity to build equitable relations between rich and poor countries, and more specifically between European Union countries and its privileged partners, all 79 countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific."

Twice elected to the European Parliament (EP), in 1999 and 2004, during her second mandate, Luisa Morgantini presided over matters of the Development Committee of the EP (2004-2006). She was Vice President of the EP, 2007-2009. Her great combats? There were many. "Amongst other things, I worked to bring the European Parliament closer to its national counterparts, so that national MPs could better understand the



Luisa Morgantini with Zarifou Ayeva, Former Minister of Togo for Foreign Affairs. © EP

“I have just returned from Malawi, and I realise the extent to which the policies depend on those who manage them,”

Luisa Morgantini at the European Parliament. © EP

European stakes. I also fought to increase the budget allocated to education in developing countries and to suppress ‘linked’ aid, the assistance that ties the Official Development Assistance to the industrial and security policies of industrialised countries. Very recently, I fought – and I was not alone in this, since all the MEPs fought – to soften the European Commission’s rigid attitude on concluding Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with the different groups of countries in the ACP. I feel that the European Commission should have listened to us more on this issue.”

➤ Africa, first and foremost

Africa has been at the heart of many of her combats. She gave her support to the Pan-African Parliament and the African Union (AU). “I came back from my latest travels

in Africa (last May, she led the EU observation mission during the Malawi elections) convinced that African leaders increasingly take their destiny in their own hands.” In her stride, she applauds “with both hands the EU-AU partnership launched in 2007 in Lisbon. I would also like to salute the work carried out by the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, particularly his latest policy to encourage budgetary aid”. Luisa Morgantini is conscious that this new type of assistance – the progressive abandonment of project aid in favour of support to a government’s national budgets – is not devoid of risk: “we will need to ensure that this assistance will not be diverted. The European Parliament has always demanded this. Despite the reticence of some players, I have already witnessed some positive results, even if there is still much to do”, and she adds, “I have just returned from Malawi, and I realise the extent to which the policies depend on those who manage them”.

The spirited deputy will fight on many other fronts too. The low cost access to (quality) medicines to fight neglected illnesses such as malaria or tuberculosis, the eradication of

the ‘returns’ directive for immigrants, a lost battle... “It is time that Europe understands that the diaspora has a very important role to play in development, particularly by building bridges between the continents.”

What great challenges await us? “The mid-term revision of the Cotonou Agreement that binds Europe and the ACP, and the continuation of the partnership with the African Union. We shall have to remain vigilant on issues of democracy, the APE and civil society.”

Nominated amongst “1000 women for the Nobel Peace Prize” in 2005, laureate for development for the MEP Awards 2006, Luisa Morgantini is not about to give up. The fast-moving civil society, both Italian and international, awaits her.

Keywords

Luisa Morgantini; European Parliament; MEP; Italy; ACP; Africa; Altiero Spinelli; EU; Malawi.

A Kenyan fisherman pulls a rope to lift a net onto the deck of a fishing boat in the waters of Diani on the Kenyan south coast. © Reporters/AP



The ACP to cooperate to secure sustainable fishing

The Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) ministers in charge of fishing gathered for the first time in Brussels on 4 and 5 June. They decided to create an internal coordination and cooperation mechanism for sustainable fishing.

This meeting follows the adoption of a resolution by the 87th session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Addis-Ababa in 2008 on fishing, asking that a first meeting of the ACP ministers in charge of this issue should be convened in the course of 2009. The challenges facing ACP fisheries are plentiful: drastic export requirements, especially to European markets, and the lack of infrastructures and technical expertise essential to make the best use of halieutical resources through added-value activities. On top of that, there is the issue of the increasing competition of non-ACP countries fishing exports and the erosion of preferences on traditional markets.

In a press release, the ministers expressed their deep concern in the face of the intensification of the global fishing crisis that follows

the overcapacity of global fleets, illegal and non-regulated fishing, the collapse of revenue from global resources, and the recorded decline of fish stock around the world. The ministers also asked the European Union to finance a programme aiming to help the ACP to implement European regulations on illegal, non-declared fishing, seeing that time and means will be required to implement the necessary infrastructures and strengthening of their police forces.

The cooperation mechanism – which must be formally ratified in November – will need to monitor fishing activities and the commercial cooperation with the ACP partners, with the European Union at the forefront. Furthermore, the cooperation mechanism will have to promote the creation of a joint EU/ACP high-level body for fishing. **M.M.B.**



Kayar, fishing harbour, Senegal. © Reporters/BSIP

Fishing is of key importance for the economy of ACP countries. Indeed, more than two thirds of the world's global fish catch production today is from developing countries, and the global trade of fishing products, including aquaculture, is estimated at US\$150 billion.

Debra Percival

Zimbabwe and EU to talk

Political dialogue between Zimbabwe and the EU is underway in the country's capital, Harare, following an 18 June meeting in Brussels between Morgan Tsvangirai, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe's unity government, and the EU's Troika past, present and future presidencies of the EU Council.



Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai speaks during a media conference after a meeting of Zimbabwe and the EU Troika at the EU Council headquarters in Brussels, 18 June 2009. © Reporters/AP

This will pave the way for normal relations between the EU and Zimbabwe and the lifting of restrictive measures", Carl Bildt, Sweden's Foreign Minister, told journalists, whose country is in the EU's rotating presidency chair (1 July-31 December). He said it was "important to fully implement the political agreement [on the unity government] and common benchmarks". These include a clamp-down on politically-motivated violence and an end to the harassment of human rights activists in Zimbabwe. Further progress was needed on establishing the rule of law and placing the security

sector under the control of the inclusive government, drafting a new Constitution, also bringing about transparency in the financial system and reform of the Central Bank, he added. The talks will take place under Article 8 of the Cotonou agreement to which Zimbabwe is party.

Fambai Ngirande, Lobby and Advocacy Manager of the National Association of Zimbabwe's NGOs, said: "Zimbabwe is broke and cannot sustain itself; we therefore need your support. But give your money directly to the people and don't disburse it through government, as there are no guarantees that

this money will be used for the right purposes. First the government must undertake key reforms itself, and then you can provide government-to-government support".

Louis Michel, EU Development Commissioner at the time of Tsvangirai's June visit, said the EC had up until now pledged €90M to Zimbabwe this year to respond to humanitarian and emergency needs, including clean drinking water channelled through non-governmental bodies.

Call for enhanced urban development policies

One out of every three people living in cities in developing countries lives in a slum or other unplanned settlement. African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and European Union (EU) officials called for greater focus on sustainable urbanisation in ACP countries at the first tripartite conference on Urbanisation Challenges and Poverty Reduction in ACP Countries, 8-10 June in Nairobi.

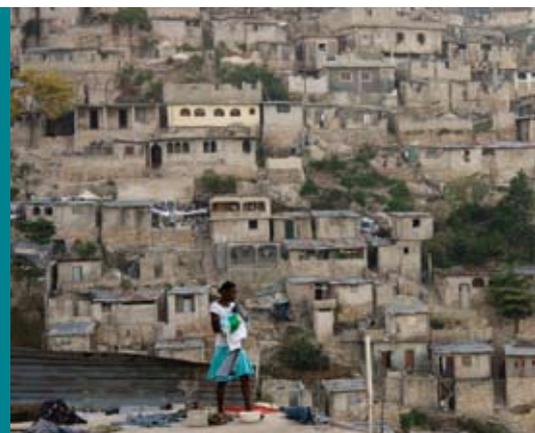
Okechukwu Romano Umelo

The conference, the first joint initiative by the ACP, European Commission (EC) and UN-HABITAT, gathered 200 participants from 50 countries to discuss technical, financial and other issues affecting urbanisation. Slum dwellings exacerbate poverty levels and threaten to reverse progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), agreed participants, unified in their resolve to enhance urban development.

A declaration called for urban development

initiatives to be reviewed and new ones created, and for ACP governments to place urbanisation at the centre of talks with the EU. It called for the €4M Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme – launched last year by UN-HABITAT and funded by the EC – to extend from currently 30 member states to all ACP countries during the 2010 mid-term review of the 10th European Development Fund.

Secretary General of the ACP Group, Sir John Kaputin, underlined the importance



Slum, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 2008. © Alain Grimard, UN-HABITAT

of active participation among all urban development partners. Andrew Bradley, the Group's Assistant Secretary General said: "We all share the view that the biggest challenge to addressing slums and slum proliferation is government policy and strategic urban planning".

UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Anna Tibaijuka, called for an EU urban policy and recommended a specialised multi-actor coordination body for urbanisation. She said: "UN-HABITAT invites governments to commit, in their national budgets, to the urban agenda especially for participatory slum prevention and upgrading".

The new face of the European Parliament

Anne-Marie Mouradian*

Victory for the Christian Democrats and Conservatives (PPE) confirms their position as the major political force (264 seats won out of 736), but they will have to compromise owing to a lack of an absolute majority. The Socialists suffered losses, but nevertheless held onto second place (184 seats), while the Liberals held their ground in third place (84 seats). The Greens achieved a significant breakthrough, increasing their number of seats from 43 to 53, and the extreme right strengthened its position. This sums up the key developments in the European elections of 7 June, an event followed closely by the Pan-African Parliament.



New European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek of Poland, speaks after his election at the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, eastern France Tuesday, July 14, 2009. © Reporters/AP

The left failed to capitalise on the discontentment of European citizens over the economic crisis. With Conservatives present in 21 of the 27 Member States, the centre right was the main winner in the elections, gaining the upper hand, paradoxically, not just in countries where they are in government (France, Italy, Germany), but also where they are in opposition. In Spain and the UK, for example, it won the protest votes of those who blame the government for the crisis.

The extreme right and opponents of Europe notably achieved success in the Netherlands, the UK, Austria and Hungary.

The other observation that cannot be overlooked is the record level of abstention – 56% on average for all the 27 Member States. This abstention rate, which has continued to rise since the first European elections based on universal suffrage in 1979, is of concern. More than half of the 375 million eligible to vote did not do so on 7 June, highlighting their disinterest in elections which wrongly

continue to be considered as secondary and incapable of resolving their problems.

Apathy from the Europeans?

However, the Parliament is the only European institution whose members are elected by all of its citizens. Also the areas of responsibility are being greatly extended, and it manages a budget of €116 billion and initiates a great deal of of the legislation which affects the everyday lives of Europeans.

> A pan-African delegation

The Pan-African Parliament did however take an interest in the elections and sent a delegation to London, Wiesbaden and Brussels. Its representatives attended the EP's election evening in Brussels to "share Europe's experience in elections, but also to make the Europeans aware that Africa is observing them and draws inspiration from the EU." It will also keep a close eye on the make-up of the EP's new Committee

on Development, and the designation of European members of the Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly of which Labour's Glenys Kinnock was co-president in the previous legislature. She is now Minister for Europe in the British government.

It remains to be seen which role the former European Commissioner for Development will take up. Elected as an MEP with more than 300,000 transferable votes, the Belgian Louis Michel has given up his mandate at the Commission several months early, as he promised to do, to take up his seat at the EP.

The European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament have previously requested greater parliamentary control over the strategy and implementation of EU-ACP cooperation.

This will certainly be one of the challenges facing the new assembly.

* French journalist based in Brussels and specialised in ACP-EU relations.

“The future of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is linked to its development”

At the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kivu Province is an open wound. The violence of the armed forces present and the retaliations on a population that is already on its knees have resumed with more violence, leading Alan Doss, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC (MONUC), to launch, on 10 July, an urgent call for the promised reinforcements. As he was passing through Brussels last May, The Courier questioned him on the risk evoked by some experts of a balkanisation of a country whose wealth triggers the envy of foreign companies and neighbouring countries.

What can be done to end the violence?

First, the government must maintain discipline and end the impunity that lies at the very core of its own Army. Populations must be able to trust the authorities and the Army needs the cooperation of the people to eliminate the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) – a group linked to the 1994 Rwanda genocide – that is accountable for most of the atrocities. The MONUC continues to put pressure on the government to exclude persons who have committed offences from the ranks of its Army, and the government has promised to take necessary action.

The war in Kivu would be economic rather than political. Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid until 14 July, has already attracted attention to the “economic dimension of this war”. An end-of-war American plan devised by Herman Cohen for Kivu is already on the desk of the President of the United States, Barack Obama. To end a war, which Mr Cohen essentially attributes to Rwanda, a country that has controlled the natural resources of Kivu for the past 12 years, he recommends the creation of a ‘common market’ that would encompass the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This common market would enable the Congolese State to perceive taxes on the mining and forest resources that would be exported to western ports via Rwanda.

This could lead to a balkanisation of the DRC. What is your opinion?

The roots of the conflict are economic, without doubt, but they are not alone. There are also ethnic issues and the consequences of the Rwanda genocide. You cannot boil the whole issue down to just one factor. Furthermore, when the State begins to erode, the hunt for economic cause is very often not the cause but rather the symptom of the illness. We need a multi-dimensional approach. First, we must eliminate the armed groups, go forward with the reconciliation process and resolve the issue of land between the various groups. And it is essential that the Congolese should clearly define what they want. We must not impose a solution from the outside upon them. They are, it is true, afraid of balkanisation, and even the best of intentions are ill interpreted. This attitude can easily be understood when we look at their history.

The future of the Congo is linked to its development. Thus, we must find formulas where everybody gets some satisfaction. We should not dig in our heels about the opening of eastern DRC to eastern ports



Alan Doss (left), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), in the Kiwanja camp of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) during a visit to the area to assess security and humanitarian situation. North Kivu, DRC, January 2009. © UN/Marie Frechon

either. It would mean forgetting that the rest of the country has its own wealth too. Shipping goods from the eastern part of the Congo does not mean the ringing of the toll bell for the Port of Matadi in the west. Too much of a focus on the eastern part would be to overlook the south of the country and the minerals of Katanga that can be exported to South Africa’s Cape Town from Lubumbashi. **M.M.B.**

The colossal project of education

A dossier by Marie-Martine Buckens

Education for all is one of the objectives set in the stone of the United Nations' tablets of commandments, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). This particular goal is proving a huge challenge for ACP countries who have also undertaken to reduce the illiteracy rate by half before 2015. Could this be no more than an illusion? The experts seem to think not. Still, there does not yet seem to be a consensus on the form that education should take. What sort of schools, technical colleges and universities should be created or reformed to allow children, adolescents and adults to fit harmoniously and productively into the economy of their country? An example: in Africa, farmer organisations sound the alarm. In substance, they say that

sending children to school is of little use if they end up socially misfit. Indeed, very few students complete their schooling and if they do, their future is often bleak. On the other hand, these children often neglect their forefathers' lands, leaving them without heirs.

This is just one example amongst so many others, but one that is telling of the unbreakable link between the educational and political path of a country. This question is particularly acute in these times of globalisation when all nations, especially those undergoing development, attempt to define the place that they will take in this new economic and cultural order. Indeed, Southern countries are not the only ones affected by the educational system crisis either.

Crises are times for opportunity. In the area of education, the opportunity lies in

the redefinition of priorities. In the case of Southern countries, where the education continuum is often a legacy from the colonisers, this is the opportunity to re-appropriate 'traditional', ancestral knowledge. The way in which it will be integrated in the general trend – mainly based on western teaching methods – is an open issue, with open answers. In Senegal for example, the 'Cases des tout Petits' (Hut for Small Children), which are open to children under eight, combine Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) with oral learning by storytellers.

Information and communication technologies will play an increasingly important role in this area, as testified the exposés of the participants to the latest International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training held last May in Dakar, Senegal's capital city.

Campus of University West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica.
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The “widening gap” between rich and poor countries

In its latest 2009 ‘Education for All global monitoring report’, UNESCO denounces the combined effects of political indifference, inefficient national policies and unfulfilled international promises as some of the many factors that create a “widening gap” between rich and poor countries in education-related issues.

The figures speak for themselves:

- In developing countries, one out of three primary school age children (193 million children) suffers from brain impairment and reduced perspectives in education due to malnutrition.
- 75 million primary school age children – one third of which are in sub-Saharan Africa – are not in education.
- Whereas over a third of children of rich countries complete some form of higher education, fewer of their sub-Saharan counterparts finish primary school, and only five per cent will go to university or an equivalent school.
- National disparities reflect global inequalities. In countries like Ethiopia, Mali or Niger, children in the poorer 20 per cent of the population have three times less chance of attending primary schools than the children among the richer 20 per cent of the population.

This is not a good start for attaining the goal of Universal Primary Education before 2015, since more than 29 million children will still be unschooled. Furthermore, this figure is under-estimated as it excludes countries in the grip of conflicts such as Sudan or the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These figures are only a partial indicator of the extent of the problem insofar as millions of children leave school before having finished primary school. The monitoring of educational assets also clearly stresses the poor quality of education: many children leave school without basic reading and maths skills. Furthermore, in sub-Saharan Africa alone, 3.8 million teachers will have



School in Lagos, Nigeria. © Reporters/AP

to be recruited before 2015 to reach the goal of Universal Primary Education.

Finally, there are around 776 million illiterate adults worldwide, or 16 per cent of the world's population. Two thirds are women. At that rate, they will be in excess of 700 million by 2015.

➤ International aid does not keep its promises

The report claims that international agreements are not respected, and speaks of the “collective failure” of the donor community. The authors assess that, every year, there is a shortage of \$7 billion to complete basic education before 2015. In 2005, the donors pledged to increase their aid by \$50 billion before 2010. However, today's commitment

forecasts a financing deficit of \$30 billion, around half of which is for sub-Saharan Africa.

The authors of the Report are predominantly critical towards donors who reallocate their aid to further education – France and Germany specifically – whereas countries such as the Netherlands or the United Kingdom dedicate more than 60 per cent of their aid budget to basic education in countries with a low income. **M.M.B.**

Keywords

Education; UNESCO; Universal Primary Education; Africa; Marie-Martine Buckens.

A multilingual education, guarantor of quality



Simone Oppliger, Eritrea, 2000 © Simone Oppliger.

Creole in the Caribbean, Swahili, Hausa, Kikongo and many others in Africa, Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea and so forth... All these languages were almost completely non-existent in the school curriculum of ACP countries, where lessons are taught in the former colonial languages. It would seem that this fact would partially explain the premature school leaving of the working classes. Today, bilingualism experiments are being carried out with some constancy.

“If we are to attain the goal of a fairer education in Africa, I am convinced that we must develop a multilingual education that is based on the mother tongue, in partnership with the European and International languages that are officially used in most African countries today. This education would build bridges between the initial schooling of the official sector and would offer literacy to those who are too old to enrol for school.” For years, Amadou Samassekou, President of the African Academy of Languages and former Minister for Education in Mali, has defended the idea of local language literacy.

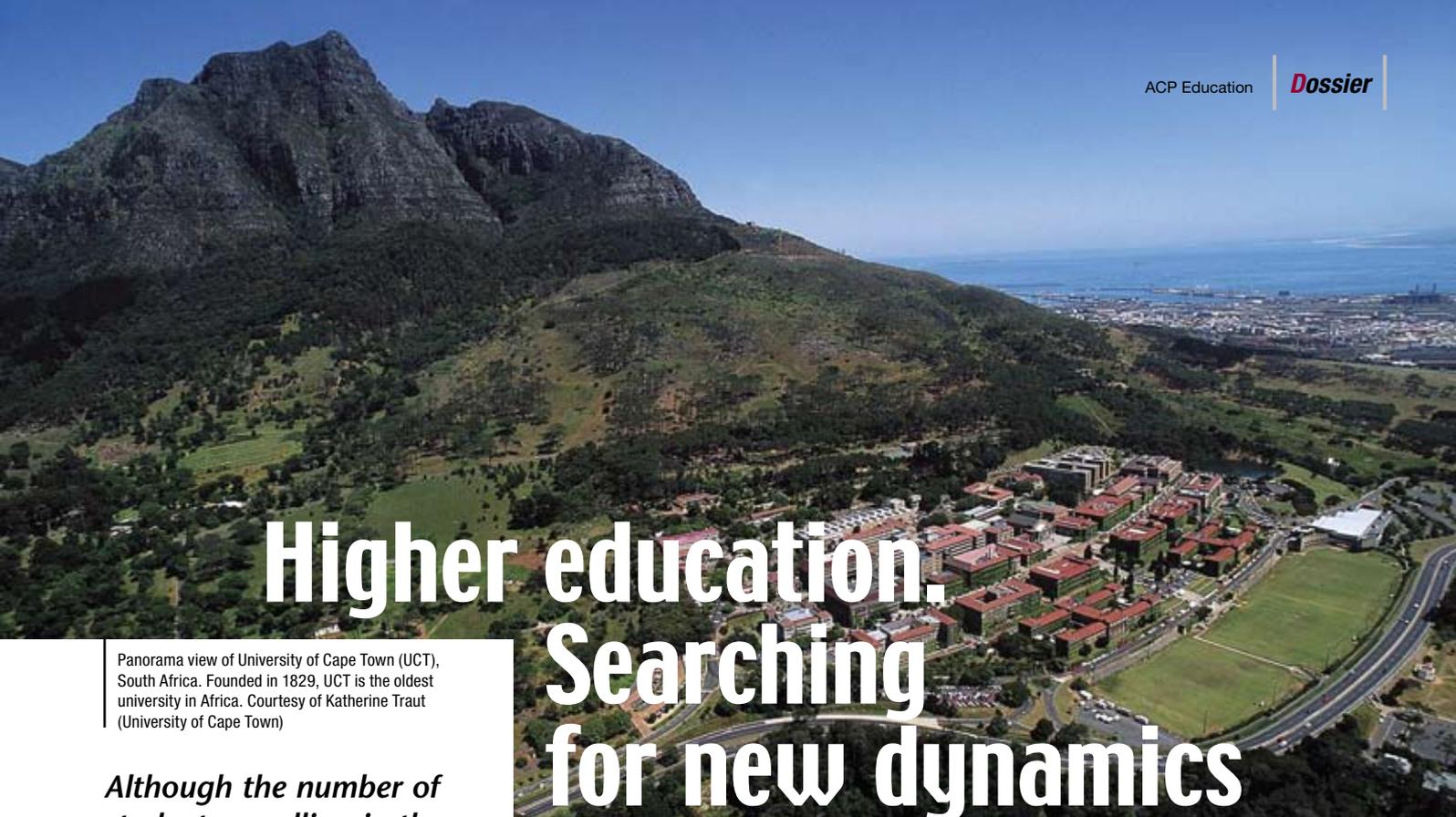
In actual fact, bilingual education has existed for more than ten years in many ACP countries. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), it started as early as 1922 when the Belgian colonialists introduced local languages in the school curriculum. This practice was dropped at the time of the country’s independence before being taken up again in 1970. In Niger, the experiment goes back to 1973 and enjoys the support of the European Union; in Haiti, from 1982. On the other hand, these experiments do not always run smoothly. The greatest problem lies in the lack of school manuals published in local languages coupled with the teachers’ lack of training, which often results from a lack of political will and/or financial means. An expert remarks that “African countries obtain financing from the World Bank only if they reach the percentage of Education For All (EFA) based on the number of children enrolled in a school. The quality of the education is often less important.”

In spite of this, bilingualism is deeply rooted in some countries. This is especially true in former British Empire countries (and in Burundi once ruled by Belgium) where African languages were already taught in primary schools in colonial days: South Africa, Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria and Tanzania, all of which practice a bilingual ‘sustainable education’. In this model, African languages are still used in secondary education, which is not the case in the limited teaching bilingual education model. This model uses African languages at the beginning of the primary cycle to make the learning of the official language – former colonial language – easier. The system is widespread in the former French and Portuguese colonies where African languages were once banned from education.

Adamou Samassekou is optimistic: “Africa has decided to change this situation by setting-up the African Academy of Languages in 2001”. “If we succeed” he continues, “to combine a certain quantity of universal and endogenous knowledge, this multilingual education would allow mankind to settle in its local culture and to integrate into an international culture”. **M.M.B.**

Keywords

Education; ACP; Caribbean; DRC; Education for All (EFA); multilingual; Marie-Martine Buckens.



Higher education. Searching for new dynamics

Panorama view of University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. Founded in 1829, UCT is the oldest university in Africa. Courtesy of Katherine Traut (University of Cape Town)

Although the number of students enrolling in the higher education institutions of ACP States is increasing more rapidly than anywhere else in the world – by some 66 per cent since 1999 in Africa – only five percent of secondary school students access higher education. This is due to a shortage of means – the States only earmark around 20 per cent of their allocated budgets for education – combined with a blatant lack of networks and partnerships with the private sector, at a time when high-income countries massively invest in research and information technologies.

To deal with this situation, African countries, gathering in Dakar last November, paved the way for a strategic development framework for higher education for the next ten years. In Dakar, Christophe Ruffin, the French Ambassador in Senegal explained that: “The average financing need for all 30 countries fluctuates between US\$515M and US\$583M per year between 2005 and 2015, depending on the financing methods. This shows that, at the scale of the 30 countries, the extent of the financing need prompts the European Union to think of other financing alternatives.” For its part, the African Development Bank (ADB) has decided to mobilise 140 million dollars and a further 60 million dollars for the period covering 2009-2011.

However, explains the ADB in its report on higher education, in the 1950s and 1960s, African universities enjoyed a solid reputation as centres for excellence and were in the same league as the world’s better centres of excellence. “Still”, continues the report, “under the effect of the economic crisis of the eighties and the implementation of structural adjustment policies granting priority to basic education, the resources intended for higher education have decreased, resulting in the deterioration of the quality of higher education and higher university education. The withdrawal of donors who no longer subsidise higher education has also led to an increased deterioration of the quality of higher education products”.

> The EU-AU partnership for science

Last October, the European Union and the African Union launched a new strategic partnership for science, information and communications technologies and space. The partnership embraces 19 lead projects, six of which take priority. The priority projects include two aimed at improving the extent and use of the Internet in Africa (the ‘African Internet Exchange System’) and at broadening the range of the high-speed pan-European research and education network, GEANT, to sub-Saharan Africa (‘Africa Connect’). Two other projects aim at helping the African Union to develop its own scientific resources. The project on African Research Grants will help the African Union Commission to implement an African framework-programme for research. In the area of space research, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa and ACP countries (GMES Africa) initiative aims to reinforce Africa’s use of remote sensing. **M.M.B.**

www.africa-eu-partnership.org; www.afdb.org

Keywords

Education; Senegal; Dakar; African Union; African Development Bank (ADB); Marie-Martine Buckens.

European expertise at the service of the ACP States universities

Within the framework of Edulink – the EACP-EU Partnerships in Higher Education programme – the SideCap project links together several ACP country universities with two of their British counterparts specialised in distance learning methods and technologies.

Through the improvement of distance teaching of ACP universities, the ‘Staff Improvement in distance education for Caribbean, African and Pacific universities’ (SideCap) project must implement a progressive programme to update the competences of the teaching staff and support the latter in creating online courses. Participating ACP universities are all confronted with the necessity of attracting and assisting poor students living in remote areas: the University of Mauritius, the University of the West Indies and the University of the South Pacific. The Open University and the University

of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute* will consolidate the expertise of the network.

Concretely, the staff of ACP universities will be trained to access, open and reconsider the ‘Open Content’, which consists of the pedagogical equipment and processes designed by the Open University or other ‘Open Content’ suppliers for distance training. The subjects dealt with in this framework encompass good practice video-conferences demos made by the European partners, the production of a CD-ROM, the creation of online courses, and interactive debate processes. From this

training and the needs identified, pedagogical tools and equipment adapted to the ACP States’ teaching environment will be elaborated. **M.M.B.**

* The Open University and the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute in the United Kingdom, both renowned specialists in online and distance teaching methods and technologies.

Keywords

Edulink; EU-ACP; SideCap; University of Mauritius; University of the West Indies; University of the South Pacific; the Open University; University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute; Marie-Martine Buckens.

The omnipresence of women on Caribbean campuses

The number of women students enrolled in higher universities and colleges of the Caribbean archipelago has risen dramatically since the early 1980s. In 2000, two thirds of students were women. This is the official figure of the University of the West Indies (UWI), which encompasses three main campuses – in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago – with a total number of 24,000 students, making it the largest university of the Caribbean.

In a report drafted for UNESCO on the present status of sciences in the Caribbean, Harold Ramkissoon, Professor of Mathematics and Vice-President of the Caribbean Scientific Union (CSU), and Ishenkumba Kahwa, Professor of Chemistry at the University of the West Indies, said this was nothing short of remarkable. The authors note that it “reflects the fact that the male population is becoming less and less successful, a new phenomenon of imbalance between the sexes that is currently being studied, as well as its implications.” The

situation is also mirrored among academic staff: whereas there were 33.2 per cent women in the academic staff of the University of the West Indies in 1998, the figure was up to 36.8 per cent the following year.

Furthermore, the higher education network of the Caribbean suffers from a lack of funds, which is worsened by the “inability to attract and maintain high-quality staff, the mediocrity of the working conditions and maintenance of the equipment”. This picture is especially true

for the universities of Guyana and Surinam, where these issues are ‘critical’, mainly because of the “great weakness of the economy of these countries”, whereas the University of the West Indies, where scientists are much better paid, is relatively well off. **M.M.B.**

Keywords

Education; women; Caribbean; University of the West Indies (UWI); Marie-Martine Buckens.



The African Virtual University (AVU)

Launched in 1997 with initial funding from the World Bank and the European Union, then from European and north-American countries and private companies including Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard and Netsat, the African Virtual University (UVA) is now led and managed by Africans. With headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya since 2002, its goal is to offer a distance education mostly focused on scientific and technical training of sub-Saharan Africans. It also offers African universities the possibility to complete and strengthen their programmes and competences while offering a high-level education to students who were rejected by those same universities.

The AVU works in partnership: in 2005, its network included 56 partner institutions in 17 English (9), French (7) and Portuguese (1) speaking countries throughout Africa. Thus, the AVU has become a continental education network of higher education institutions committed to using open and distance education systems to reinforce their capacity.

Although very attractive on paper, in reality project results are mixed. The main difficulty is to offer a distance education that satisfies every student, all of whom come from extremely different systems of educa-

tion, and some of whom have very little experience in distance learning. "Seeing the targeted level (Baccalaureat in Education), the training tools, pedagogical resources, the availability of TICE and the disparities at the level of the functions of the different countries, it is very difficult to imagine that such training should prove successful without very flexible measures and an increased possibility of adapting the resources", feels

Moustapha Sokhna, from the Faculty of Sciences and Technologies of Education and Training at Dakar's Cheikh Anta Diop university. **M.M.B.**

Keywords

African Virtual University (AVU); World Bank; European Union (EU); Marie-Martine Buckens.

THE MANY BRANCHES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

With three main campuses – in Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu – and 13 regional campuses, the University of the South Pacific has managed to offer high-quality education that, coupled with sizeable research projects, attracts the region's students and academic staff alike. The structure of the University of the South Pacific has undergone a complete overhaul to improve both its efficiency and how it operates. It has set up four fac-

ulties and a centre for the development and technology of education, the latter aiming to be cross-disciplinary with the faculties. The university has identified education as one of the five key points for its 2006-2010 development strategy, thus aiming to improve student results and particularly distance learning students, who made up just over half of all students in 2006.

Souleymane Sadi Maâzou*

Educational crisis in West Africa

There are not enough qualified teachers to run primary schools in West Africa. Five NGOs (Aide et Action, Plateforme africaine pour l'éducation des adultes, African Network Campaign for Education For All, Pamoja Afrique de l'Ouest and Oxfam International) raised the alarm during Global Action Week on Education for All.

There is a shortage of around 750,000 qualified teachers in West Africa's primary schools. According to these organisations, this situation has negatively impacted the quality of teaching in this part of Africa. According to the 30-page memorandum

published by these international civil society organisations, 459,000 trained teachers are needed in Nigeria, 39,000 in Burkina Faso and 18,300 in Sierra Leone.

In this African territory, there are more male teachers than female. In Benin and Cape Verde, most teachers are women, and parity has been reached in Nigeria. Apart from these states, women teachers are a minority in other West African countries, and this has a consequence on school attendance. Indeed, studies have demonstrated that girls are more likely to stay in school if the teacher is a woman.



Teachers in a village in Niger, 2009. © Marie-Martine Buckens

Today, 14 million primary school-aged children are not schooled in West Africa, and not one single government has succeeded in reaching the goal of spending 7% of the GNP on education, as their ministers had promised ten years ago.

* Freelance journalist from Niger.

Keywords

Education; West Africa; NGOs; Benin; Cape Verde.

Education is badly overlooked by post-conflict aid

Today, more than 100 million children still do not attend primary school. Amongst them, 50 per cent live in countries that are either at war or are rebuilding themselves after conflicts. "Education is the forgotten aspect of post-conflict humanitarian aid and refugee aid", indicated Harold Elleston, President of the New Security Foundation at a conference on e-learning held in Dakar in May 2009. He feels that distance learning has provided "truly attractive options to reconstruct education in some of the most complex areas around the world", like Afghanistan. Fatoumata Kone from

the Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Education described the situation in the Dabakala Province, long under the control of rebels and where combats have destroyed dozens of schools. She hopes that some agreement with a large hardware and software provider can be reached soon with the aim of supplying computers that will enable the implementation of a complete distance-learning programme. Sidiki Traoré from the African Virtual University described an experiment conducted in Somalia, a country plagued with terrorism and acts of piracy, where she gave distance-learning courses in English and journalism with the help of interna-

tional partners. These lessons were attended by 4,000 students from six universities and set out to "emphasize the human capital and bring life and hope", she explained. **M.M.B.**

Keywords

Education; Harold Elleston; e-learning; Dakar; Fatoumata Kone; Sidiki Traoré; Marie-Martine Buckens.

Between tradition and modernity

Over time, western education has become the reference for educational systems. However, it very often clashes with traditional education because it lays emphasis on abstraction and individualism. Furthermore, many ACP countries face the influence of Koranic schools.

Sociologist Ousmane Sawadogo from Burkina Faso explains that traditional education is usually passed through words that come with observation and imitation, art and play, music and dance. Four constants characterise this type of education: the whole of society is in a constant learning process because the child is the child of the group. It is all around and integrated to life, active and democratic and the barriers between theory and practice are nonexistent. It privileges the cohesion of the group as opposed to personal development. “Furthermore – adds Mr Sawadogo – the African ‘traditional’ society is completely focused on maintaining a balance. Since the key preoccupation is subsistence, innovation is often left out.”

These various characteristics make it the opposite of the ‘western’ educational system.

With colonisation, adds Mr Sawadogo, “they simply tried to transplant the school monopoly on education to Africa. School is not the only place for learning – he continues – but it enjoyed a growing monopoly of theoretically ‘modern’ transmission of knowledge. In its evolution, school (...) eliminated the social-cultural parameter of its environment by advocating the dominating culture of the coloniser through mechanisms of assimilation. Throughout time, the development instrument that represents school will itself raise issues linked to its cost and failure to adapt, amongst others things”. **M.M.B.**



Traditional and modern classrooms in a village in Niger, 2009. © Marie-Martine Buckens

Keywords

Ousmane Sawadogo; traditional education; western education; colonisation; oral character; Marie-Martine Buckens.

Koranic and ‘white’ schools

In Niger, an increasing number of school-age children simultaneously attend state schools and Koranic schools. The latter are spreading at the same rate as ‘White Schools’ both in rural and urban areas. In the past, very few children enrolled in the ‘White Schools’ (écoles du blanc) of Niger, a country whose population is made up of 98% Muslims. Parents seem to put their trust more easily in the religious teachers and have chosen to send their offspring for prayer lessons in Koranic schools. Today, although there are no statistics to back this, the trend seems to have changed and children attend both schools.

In the daytime, children go to the ‘white’ school before going to the Koranic school

in the evenings, where religious classes last two hours at most. Koranic schools can be found in many places, including warehouses or even outdoors.

Through the French–Arab education support project, the government of Niger is focusing on the renovation of Koranic schools in the aim that they fulfil their educational function. With this goal, a programme was designed, encompassing the following subjects: teachings of the Koran (50%), Islamic studies (30%), Arab language courses (10%), French language lessons (5%), and practical production activities (5%). As we can see, this programme is almost-exclusively religious, although it would appear to be an appropriate response



Students at the Al-Haraiman French-Arabic School talk during a class break, in Yaounde, Cameroon, 2009.

© Reporters/AP

against poverty and in particular begging, a phenomenon that is deeply-rooted in Koranic schools. **S.S.M.**

Keywords

Souleymane Saddy Maâzou; Education; Niger; ‘white schools’; koranic schools; French; Arab.

The trend in online learning

Online learning should be able to respond to the many educational challenges facing ACP countries: ideal for communities – and there are many – far away from city centres, and sufficiently flexible to offer content that is adapted to their specific needs. This is enough to attract all the partners involved in educational programmes. But these challenges still need to be addressed.

Widely known as ‘e-learning’, online learning is subject to many initiatives in ACP countries, with varying degrees of success. Indeed, this learning method is still at the experimental stage, even in industrialised countries, and faces many obstacles in less developed areas, particularly with regard to the lack of financial means: a shortage of adapted computers and software, and particularly a lack of infrastructure that would allow the 80 per cent of the population living in rural areas to connect to the Internet. This situation is rapidly changing, as testified by the many participants at the last ICT gathering (information and communication technologies) for education,

held last May in the Senegalese capital city. Indeed, the ACPs, particularly Africa, represent a rapidly growing market for ICT designers (please also see the article in ‘Interaction’). And online educative content is part of the selected products financed by the bigger donors.

The pessimists will tell you that ICT is nothing but a new educational gadget on which many hopes are built in vain, like the advent of television in its heyday. The optimists will tell you about the results obtained here and there in Africa, in the Caribbean and the Pacific region. And the projects – including those financed within the framework of the ACP-EU Edulink programme ([\[edulink.int\]\(http://edulink.int\)\) \(see the article on page 16\) – that try to create a network between training institutes and contents adapted to the real needs of the teachers and students of the ACP. There are many experiments, albeit fragmented, – except for universities where ICT is fully integrated – into which all of the ‘operators’, including private companies such as Microsoft, Hewlett Packard or Google, universities, ministries and NGOs rush. And giving a global image is almost impossible. **M.M.B.**](http://www.acp-</p>
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Keywords

E-learning; online learning; ACP; OLPC; Marie-Martine Buckens.



© Marie-Martine Buckens

THE OLPC PROJECTS

The ‘One laptop per child’ (OLPC) programme is slowly spreading throughout Africa. Set up by Nicholas Negroponte, the former head of the media lab of the US Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), it boasts the participation of numerous university leaders, industrials and members of the ‘open source’ Linux community. This programme has attracted many ACP countries, particularly Madagascar, Gabon and Rwanda. Indeed, after the donation of 10,000 computers within the framework of this programme, the latter decided to order a further 5,000. The aim of the programme is to give, proceeding in stages, a computer to every primary schoolchild, 220,000 computers. In Madagascar, the goal of the France section of the OLPC is to create a community of French/Malagasy translators that will either translate or adapt the pedagogical content and accompany the teachers in the field.

Niger's new trend: cyber-students

In Niger's big cities, many students are confronted with a shortage of qualified teachers and educational manuals. To fill in the gaps they rush to cybercafés, but teachers are worried about this new method of learning.



Student at a cybercafé in Dakar, Senegal, 2006.
© Reporters/AP

Information and communication technologies have invaded the lives of students in Niger. Since 2005 and the 'Jeux de la Francophonie' (Francophone Games), a continuous flood of cybercafés have opened in Niger's large cities. School and college students affected with the cyber virus frequent these cafés non-stop.

These young students spend endless hours tracking down information to complement their courses and go to cybercafés to work on homework given by their teachers. "Their number increases every day", testifies Amadou Moussa, who has hosted a cybercafé in the Terminus neighbourhood of Niamey (Niger's capital city) for the past five years. These cyber-students can neither sleep nor spend a single day without surfing the net. "The Internet is an infinite and inexhaustible source of information on literary and scientific subjects. I surf on maths exercises and lesson sites every morning", says Ali Ibrahim, a first year student in experimental sciences, in a Niamey cybercafé. The only sound around us is the purring of hard disks and the click-

ing of keyboards. In a corner of the café, two schoolgirls revise their physics courses, eyes riveted to the screen. The students are delighted. Surfing helps them achieve better results with their homework and prepare for their exams. The method is simplicity itself: click on any search engine and find free Internet sites. The only money spent is the 300 CFA (under €0.50) covering the hourly connection fee.

➤ The lack of control over knowledge is disturbing

Teachers are concerned about the influence the Internet is having on the education of their students. This training method is not one that conveys hope. "It has a negative impact on the relationship between teacher and student", warns Chaibou Boucarar, a teacher of literature.

Many parents point the finger at the State of Niger, which they feel is to blame for this situation. For the past ten years, Niger's education system has suffered numerous strikes, both from teachers and students.

Most students attend secondary school without completing the programme, and the fact that the teaching profession is now subject to a policy of formalisation by contract has only worsened the situation. Teachers have not been trained to teach and don't have the necessary didactic documentation. Their meagre salaries do little for their motivation or vocation... "The Ministry for Education has focused on the access to education rather than on its quality. The fact that students look for information on the Internet is thus inevitable", stresses biology teacher, Abdou Hassan.

In cybercafés, far from any surveillance, students sit alone in front of a screen. The web, a fascinating and captivating tool, feeds them useful information, but also plunges them into a plethora of gaming sites... **S.S.M.**

Keywords

Souleymane Saddy Maâzou; Education; Niger; information; technologies; Chaibou Boubacar.

Launch of the revision of the Cotonou Agreement

The 34th ACP-EU Council met in Brussels on 28 and 29 May under the co-presidency of Helena Bambasova, Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, and William Haomae, President of the ACP Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Solomon Islands. The EU and the ACP group launched the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement at this meeting. Having been concluded for a 20-year period extending from March 2000 to February 2020, the first revision of the agreement took place in June 2005. The current negotiations should be completed by February 2010.

During the ACP Council (25-27 May), held prior to the joint meeting, President Haomae said: “it is in the interests of all of our member states that this agreement is revised to ensure it remains relevant and is in line with the reality and requirements of the modern world.” Indeed, the revision should enable ACP-EU cooperation to adapt to new circumstances. The aim is to improve political provisions (political dialogue: articles 8 and 96, migration, etc.) and those concerning development.

The negotiation of regional Economic Partnership Agreements has made the Cotonou Agreement’s commercial provisions obsolete. The ACP Council reiterated its concerns about the Europeans’ intentions to regionalise their partnership with the ACP at the risk of “undermining the coherence and unity of the group.”

He said that in the absence of full EPAs geared towards development, taking into account the asymmetrical nature of the ACP economies, the EU should provide an alternative overall framework for trade, at the least equivalent to what existed prior to January 2008. However, representatives from Europe and the ACP were unanimous

in welcoming the new spirit of trust brought to the EPA negotiations by the new EU Trade Commissioner, Catherine Ashton, who was congratulated for her open-minded approach.

► Financial crisis and climate issues

The revision of the Cotonou Agreement should incorporate an increase in aid and funding for the ACP to counter the devastating effects of the financial crisis in their countries in view of growing poverty. In a joint resolution, the two parties underlined the need to protect vulnerable ACP countries with all instruments available, including budgetary aid and the launch of the FLEX 2009 and 2010 instrument, to which the European Commission plans to contribute an envelope of at least €500 million to help the ACP countries to maintain their social expenditure. The ACP-EU Council also passed a decision to allow poor and heavily indebted ACP countries to refinance their debts at more favourable terms with the EIB.

The Europeans and the ACP also adopted a resolution on climate change. They undertook to cooperate within the framework of

international negotiations on the climate at Copenhagen in December 2009 and the Global Climate Change Alliance. The EU also wants to rapidly put together support programmes for the ACP, within the framework of the 10th EDF, to combat desertification, soil degradation, deforestation and water scarcity.

The ACP countries and the EU both agreed that the adoption of the two joint declarations was a political success. **A.M.M.**

Keywords

Revision of the Cotonou Agreement; ACP Council; EU; Catherine Ashton; financial crisis; climate; Anne-Marie Mouradian.



William Haomae, President of the ACP Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Solomon Islands. © Robert Iroga

Banks join forces for Africa

The seven most important investors and multilateral donors in Africa, including the European Investment Bank (EIB), have undertaken to supply at least US\$15 billion more to “stop the global economic crisis from swiping out decades of progress, growth and investment in Africa”, explains the EIB.

The loans granted should give top priority to promoting commerce, reinforcing the financial sector and increasing the loan activity in the area of infrastructures, agro-food and SMEs in the region, which is affected by the slowdown of the global economy. Apart from the EIB, the institutions participating to the initiative are, in almost equal measure, the African Development Bank group (ADB), the French Development Agency, the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development through the KfW Bankengruppe, the Islamic Development Bank group and the World Bank.

For its part, the EIB intends to commit more than €2 billion to sub-Saharan Africa over the next three years in the form of loans, own funds and guarantees. The institution will increase its support to infrastructure and energy projects, particularly through the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund for those infrastructures created at the initiative of the European Commission and managed by the EIB. This trust fund will also allow for co-financing projects in parallel to the support mechanism for infrastructures in situations of crisis. The EIB will also reinforce its support to Africa's financial sector through its contributions to the Microfinance Enhancement Facility investment fund. **M.M.B.**



Liberian capital, Monrovia. © Reporters/Redux

A CONTINENT NEVERTHELESS SPARED, AT LEAST IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

According to the Economic Perspectives in Africa 2008/2009, published by the ADB, the OECD Development Centre and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa with the support of the European Union, growth will not exceed 2.9 per cent in 2009, although it was over 5 per cent in the past five years. This drop will be short-lived, and 2010 should record a recovery with a 4.5 per cent growth. Furthermore, according to Laura Recuero Virto, economist at the Africa and Middle East Desk at the OECD Development Centre, Africa is as dynamic as ever in the sector of ICTs. Interviewed by the 'Les Afriques' financial magazine, Laura Recuero Virto underlined the dy-

namism currently enjoyed in Africa by the sector of ICT "Important contracts are still being concluded end 2008-early 2009, particularly in Togo, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Mali, Uganda and Rwanda. We are witnessing the same pattern as the 2000-2001 crisis of new technologies, when Africa was the most spared continent in terms of investments. And this is the case once again. If we look at the private investments commitments in Africa, 44 per cent do not consider themselves as being affected by the crisis. But if you look at Europe and Central Asia, only 9 per cent can claim that they were not affected. The rest is either cancelled or postponed."

Keywords

Financial institutions; crisis; Africa; EIB; ICT; Marie-Martine Buckens.

Civil society alert over land-grabbing in Africa

There was tough talk at the ACP-EU civil society seminar organised by the Brussels-based European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Gaborone, Botswana, 28-30 June, which took place against a backdrop of a squeeze on trade volumes, direct foreign private investment, reduced remittances and tourism revenue in ACP countries.

Philip Kiroro of the East Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF) said the global economic downturn had led to "land grabbing" by developed country importers of food and bio-fuels. "In the absence of stable land policies, Africa is too vulnerable to land grabbing. There is need for well-negotiated policy guidelines to govern land use and investments", he said.

"We seek differentiation in the way trade in agricultural products is conducted. In view of the fact that agriculture is heavily

supported in the EU and other developed countries, we have called for the protection of our markets to avoid distortion of prices through dumping. We seek protection to enable us to develop our agriculture. But we call for liberalisation and total opening of regional markets", said Kiroro on the Economic Partnership Agreements (free trade agreements) currently being negotiated by ACP regions with the EU.

Brenda King, UK member of the ECSC and representing employers is hoping that

the 2010 mid-term review of the Cotonou agreement (2000-2020) will rectify current shortcomings in the role perceived for non-state actors in Cotonou which has now fallen below expectations, she said. **D.P.**

Keywords

Botswana; Philip Kiroro; Brenda King; EESC; EPAs; Cotonou Agreement; Debra Percival.

ADANSO – BELGIUM AND BURKINA FASO Highly original micro-projects



Market, Burkina Faso. © Reporters/BSIP

Adanso is one of many organisations supporting micro-projects in Africa. But Adanso's originality lies in the way it works and identifies projects to be financed. A non profit organisation – 'asbl' under Belgian law – Adanso, which was created just over a year ago in Belgium by six professionals – including company directors such as Jean-

Jacques Delens, CEO of Besix, which built the magnificent Dubai Tower – has succeeded in finding direct finance for around 15 commercial projects in Burkina Faso.

The funding provider does not decide on its own the project it will support. Instead, a team of three social organisers and communications professionals from Burkina Faso identify attractive initiatives and approach them. This is where Adanso's original approach comes in, a stroke of inspiration from one of its founding members, Yves Fonck, a photographer, film-maker and organiser of cultural events. The organisers make short videos about the projects which they send to Adanso in Brussels. The organisation then acts as a promoter to attract potential investors, by showing them the films and persuading them to provide credit and to go and see the projects presented on-site. Adanso also encourages the company owners to take advantage of the opportunity to strengthen their own team-building, and to allow their teams to take

the decision to cooperate. These short films are posted on the www.adanso.com website for anyone to view.

One of the ventures to receive credit involves a group of women who make shea butter. There are thousands of them. One of the projects selected recently is that of Nadège Abou, who works with dyes to produce exquisite fabrics. The finance borrowed will enable her to attend regional fairs and to give a broader dimension to her work. It is also likely to allow her to increase her workforce. She already has four full-time staff. In the video, in which she is extremely persuasive, she points out that Burkina means 'the land of the honourable people'. This is a nod in the direction of investors, but a well-justified one. The rate of repayment by the projects supported by Adanso is 98 per cent. **H.G.**

Keywords

Hegel Goutier; Belgium; Burkina Faso; micro-credit; Adanso; Yves Fonck; Nadège Abou.

Culture for development: a Euro-African challenge

Sixty-five speakers, 210 participants from 45 countries, five days of animated discussions, success stories, strategies and policy presentations. The first Euro-African Campus on cultural cooperation was held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 22-26 June, 2009.

Andrea Marchesini Reggiani

The Euro-African Campus was an initiative of the Interarts Foundation (Barcelona) and the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA, Maputo) held in partnership with the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), where *The Courier* has participated as Media Partner. The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Mozambique also collaborated and the City of Maputo hosted the last session in the beautiful Salão Nobre do Conselho Municipal, in the presence of David Simango, mayor of Maputo, Juan Molina Lamothe, Spanish Ambassador in Mozambique and Aires Bonifacio Baptista Ali, Minister of Education in Mozambique.

Presentations included music projects such as Womex and Music Crossroads International, visual arts projects such as Arterial network, Africa Comics and Art Moves Africa, and the online database SudPlanète. Renowned intellectuals were present, including the Ivorian art critic Yacouba Konaté, the École du Patrimoine Africain director Alain Godonou (Benin), the Mozambican director Pedro Pimenta, and the Congolese poet Kama Kamanda.

The main aim of the Campus was to provide a meeting, training and exchange point for cultural agents in Africa and Europe, in order to reflect, transfer knowledge, exchange experiences and discuss possible joint initiatives in the field of cultural cooperation. The Campus confirmed that there are common ideas on the link between culture and development. First of all, what emerged was the strongly held opinion that if governments don't give an appropriate level of attention to culture, development won't be complete and sustainable.



Langui wa Goro, language scholar from Kenya. © Sandra Federici



Kama Kamanda, Congolese poet. © Sandra Federici



Lebo Mashile, South African singer, poet and TV presenter. © Sandra Federici

This implies that, on the one hand, culture can contribute to the development of social, economic or political objectives, but also, on the other hand, that cultural development must be much more than just an aim of the policies of development. The creative processes have great potential in giving a voice to those who are not heard and working out new ideas that can change the dynamics of development. The attention to different forms of cultural expression runs parallel to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Presentations confirmed that there are now tools and means in local, national and international declarations, conventions and funds. Different international organisations were present in Maputo: the European Commission represented by Giorgio Ficarelli European Commission official in charge of Culture at DG DEV; UNESCO represented by different African and European officers; the Council of Europe, represented by Robert Palmer, Director of Culture and Cultural and National Heritage; UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) represented by Edna dos Santos, chief of Creative economy programme; the Centre d'Études linguistiques et historiques pour la tradition orale of the African Union, represented by Kladoumadje Nadjaldongar.

Oriol Freixa (UNESCO) introduced the MDG Achievement Fund, which is a United Nations resource that finances and supports national efforts to accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), created in December 2006 with an initial commitment of €528M from the Spanish Government to the United Nations. An additional €90M were committed in September 2008.



The stylist Alphadi and Giorgio Ficarelli, European Commission official in charge of Culture at DG DEV during the Euro African Campus in Maputo. © Sandra Federici

> NGO challenge

The challenge for the NGOs and for the artists that followed the debates is to now understand how they can access direct help from such enormous sums.

Some participants, like the South-African poet, actor, and television presenter Lebo

Mashile, made the Campus atmosphere positive and stimulating. Alphadi, the icon of African fashion, opened his speech by remarking that that the hostesses of the conference were dressed in suits probably made by Chinese manufacturers and not a result of the marvellous creations of a Mozambican stylist that recently won the international prize of the international fashion fair FIMA.

The campus conclusions defined several challenges, among which:

- to tackle the weakness of the structures of production and cultural distribution including access to the international markets;
- to offer creative opportunities and to favour the cultural participation of the population at a local level;
- to encourage the taking of responsibilities at all levels: in the work of policy planning of the public authorities, in the private sector, and in the mobilisation and innovation among civil society;
- to improve offers of training and education in the cultural area, in order to adapt it to the new needs of the sector.

Documentation and the results of the campus can be found shortly on the website of the Interarts fondation. (www.interarts.net)

Keywords

Euro-African Campus; Culture; Development; Interarts Foundation; OCPA; AECID; DG-Dev Culture; UNCTAD; MDG Achievement Fund; Andrea Marchesini Reggiani

Bridge across the Zambezi

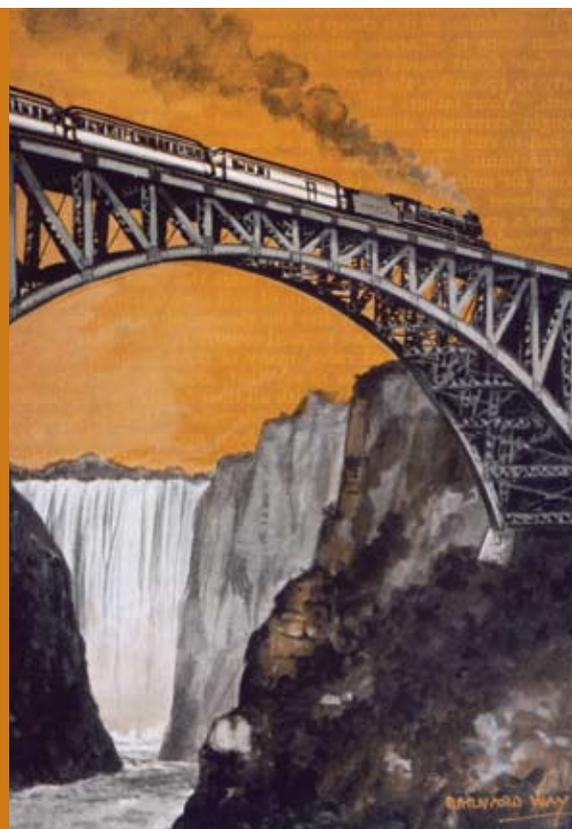
Since the early 1990s, a massive investment has been made in Mozambique aiming at rehabilitating and reconstructing the country's infrastructure, with substantial donor support.

In this connection, the EC has financed the rehabilitation of important road sections of the East-West transit corridors and of the North-South backbone link (Beira-Inchope, Nampula-Nacala...) and specifically the construction of a vital bridge across the Zambezi River in Caia which was due to be officially inaugurated on 1 August 2009.

Modernising the infrastructure and in particular completing the rehabilitation of the road network is considered a country prior-

ity to lift the poorest amongst the population out of poverty.

The Zambezi bridge project will create a new two-lane concrete bridge across the Zambezi River in Mozambique, between Chimuara and Caia in the provinces of Zambezia and Sofala, with the strong symbolic meaning of physically connecting the North and the South of the country for the first time in its history. The total cost of the project has been put at €71M, financed by an EC contribution of €30M from Mozambique's 9th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP), a €20M contribution from Italy, and a Swedish contribution estimated at approximately €21M. It has been constructed by the Consortia Mota-Engil/Soares da Costa (Portugal). **A.M.R**



Steam train crossing the bridge over the Zambezi River at Victoria Falls (around 1926). © Reporters/Mary Evans PL

Hegel Goutier

YOU SHOULD KNOW: MENYA

Media has the wind in its sails

MENYA (translation: 'you should know'), set up eight years ago, is a Burundian development NGO active in the media and run by young people. During a recent promotional visit to Brussels, 'The Courier' spoke with Sybille Cishahayo, the organisation's project coordinator and vice president. A manager and singer with five CDs and regular tours of East Africa to her credit, Sybille was just 16 when she joined MENYA. Taking on increasing responsibilities ever since, she is still well under 30!

Why a name that means 'You should know'?

'You should know' arouses the curiosity of the Burundians, causing them to wonder what it is about. That in turn helps us to know what we are about. And consequently explain it to others. There you have it.

What does Menya do?

It is a local NGO that has existed for eight years. We specialise in communication in the area of development. We are involved in four sectors that are mutually interactive: audiovisual production that had disappeared from Burundi, boosting community awareness, cultural promotion and job creation for young people in the various activities that I have just mentioned.

To raise finance, we organise events as consultants that enable us to create jobs for young people with various skills, such as camera operator, sound engineer, cutter, presenter. We make recordings for musicians and produce advertising spots for private companies such as the telephone company Orange Pal; TV films for NGOs for example, and reports for private individuals such as wedding or other social events. We try to give the very best of ourselves to those who place their trust in us. And it works.

What about starting capital?

At first there was just a small team of six – Burundians and Belgians – who wanted to contribute to the country's recovery, specifically by getting young people involved. They created the association 'Menya Media'

and then set about approaching young people, artists, journalists and others. The NGO PSI (Population Health Information) assisted in providing training in organisation and management methods. They then progressively left us to stand on our own feet while remaining available for technical support if and when we needed it.

Our first project was for an AIDS prevention campaign based on a CD recorded by local musicians. But to record it, a small sound studio was needed. At that time anyone who wanted to record a CD had to go elsewhere, to South Africa or Kenya for example. Belgian Technical Cooperation provided us with micro-financing of €5,000. We released the CD and launched the distribution campaign. The very strong encouragement we received from Burundian musicians led us to open up our studio to them.

The money obtained from the recordings for the various artists allowed us to improve the sound studio, create a video studio, purchase equipment for radio broadcasts and soundproof the building. So that is where we are today. We believe in self-financing and hard work. As soon as you produce quality work, people place their trust in you.

What about cooperating with the media?

We cooperate by offering them the benefits of our know-how in relations with the private sector. We hire space from them that we then

give to private companies. And we remunerate these media. Also, in promoting artists as we do, the public demand for them increases and thus the demand on the part of show organisers and other investors. And these then turn to the media for their promotion. The PAM (Pearl of Africa Music) music festival and the various awards we organise, with partners from other East African countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda, are good examples of this.

What is the purpose of your visit to Belgium?

To meet with organisations that have projects in Africa. I have found people very open and receptive in Brussels, such as at Africalia. I am pleased about that. We realised that for many organisations Burundi was not a priority country. This is a pity. During the crisis we were told “wait until the crisis is over and then we will come, don’t worry.” We were of interest when we were in a state of crisis. **H.G.**

Keywords

Hegel Goutier; MENYA; Burundi; Sybille Cishahayo; Youth; media; communication.

The King Baudouin International Development Prize – an increasingly prestigious award

The King Baudouin International Development Prize was awarded on 22 May at the Royal Palace in Brussels to KBR68H, a network of Indonesian radio stations with rare originality, inventiveness and style. This award is increasingly seen as one of the most prestigious in developing countries, not just because it offers significant prize money (€150,000), but the award criteria mean that the most worthy winners are selected rather than merely those surrounded by the most publicity. The prize is also significant for often recognising the actions of the laureates before they were well known and for enhancing the impact of their actions. The list of laureates covers a large range of domains from transfer of technology to literacy as well

as human rights and micro-credit. Among the former laureates are persons and organisations as prestigious as The Grameen Bank (Bangladesh), Paulo Freire (Brazil) or The International Foundation for Science (Swedish).

KBR68H, which picked up this year’s prize, was set up in 1999 when Indonesia was coming out of a long period of dictatorship. But its origins date back to a period underground when its current director, Mr. Santoso, clandestinely broadcast from a small transmitter. Nowadays, the KBR68H network includes almost 700 partner stations and reaches nearly 240 million Indonesians. Such partnerships aim to involve local people in the control of the stations and in the production of information and educational programmes and related activities.

One of the previous winners of the King Baudouin International Development Prize was Ousmane Sy from Mali for “the strength of his vision and the courage of his convictions on the subject of governance in



Reception for the prize-giving. From left to right: Jacques van Ypersele de Strihou, Head of the cabinet of the King, Louis Michel, EU Commissioner, King Albert 1st, Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy, 2009 © Hegel Goutier

Africa.” The other previous winners from ACP countries include in 1994, the AIDs support organisation, TASO, from Uganda and in 1990, the Kagiso Trust from South Africa in 1990. **H.G.**



KBR68H was represented by Mr.Santoso, 2009 © Hegel Goutier

Keywords

King Baudouin International Development Prize; Brussels; KBR68H; Indonesia; Ousmane Sy; mali; TASO; Uganda; Hegel Goutier.

EPAs: helping ACP countries trade their way to prosperity

Sweden took over the rotating EU Presidency on 1 July 2009. One of its top priorities is to conclude new trade deals – called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) – between the EU and several ACP regions. **João Aguiar Machado**, Deputy Director-General for Trade at the European Commission, answers our questions and explains why he believes these deals offer real benefits to ACP countries.

The EU and ACP countries have made real progress in their talks on EPAs since the start of 2008. Can you summarise for us?

We've continued to work together in close partnership with the ACPs, and Commissioner Ashton's arrival last autumn gave the talks a new tone and a real boost. She's invested a great deal of time and effort in the discussions – and this is now bearing fruit.

The whole Caribbean region has already signed a full agreement with us. Six African countries and Papua New Guinea in the Pacific have signed interim, goods-only agreements. And two groups of countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, and Fiji in the Pacific, are due to sign agreements soon.

Many ACP countries are amongst the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs). So they already enjoy 100 per cent duty – and quota – free access to EU markets. What more do EPAs offer?

LDCs will gain from EPAs in two main ways. Firstly, they'll enjoy unlimited access, indefinitely, to EU markets, no matter how much or how fast they grow. This isn't the case at the moment. The EU's current regime for trade with LDCs is known as 'Everything But Arms' (EBA). It offers 100 per cent duty- and quota-free access to EU markets to LDCs – but only while these countries officially qualify as LDCs.

Once they grow, and are no longer LDCs,



Port in Fiji © J.C.

they lose this special treatment. But if an LDC signs an EPA, it'll enjoy unlimited access to EU markets indefinitely.

Secondly, LDCs will get more from the EU than they do now under EBA. Not just better access to EU markets – for example, more generous rules on the origin of products. But also a host of measures to help their economies grow – by becoming more competitive and less reliant on a narrow range of exports, and by trading more with their neighbours.

Thirdly, the EPA process is unique. It will produce the first trade deals with developing

countries which take into account explicitly their development needs. They include provisions on sustainable development, regional integration, development cooperation, and aid for trade.

With an EPA, ACP countries have to cut duties on imports from the EU. Under another set of EU trade rules – GSP+ – they don't have to. So why will they gain more from EPAs?

Under GSP+, developing countries gain preferential access to EU markets for their goods, which they don't have to reciprocate. But they do have to ratify and then respect several

international conventions. There are strict eligibility criteria, in areas such as good governance. Countries in West Africa, for example, don't meet all of these at the moment.

In addition, the EU grants GSP+ access autonomously. It is not bound by a contractual relationship, as it is with an EPA. We also review countries' GSP+ eligibility every three years. So there is no certainty that we will necessarily maintain such preferences in future. Under the Lomé Conventions and the Cotonou Agreement, ACP countries' exports already enjoyed for more than 30 years the kind of privileged access to the EU which GSP+ offers. And these countries' share of EU imports actually fell over the same period.

GSP+ also excludes some products of great interest to ACP regions – like bananas in West Africa. By contrast, EPAs provide more benefits and greater certainty. They offer stable, permanent and unrivalled access to EU markets for all products from ACP regions.

The Swedish EU Presidency wants to get EPAs initialled and signed before year-end. How will this timetable benefit ACP countries?

The EU's previous trade regime with ACP countries expired at the end of 2007. So we had to move fast to protect ACP exports' preferential access to our markets.

Since January 2008, the EU has changed its legislation to grant even better access than before to countries that have initialled interim agreements with us. But countries need not just to initial their agreements. They must sign them, too. Why? Well, for

two reasons. First, legal certainty. Only once they are signed will the agreements be legally secure and fireproofed against challenges by other countries in the WTO. Second, fairness to other developing countries. Some ACP countries decided at the end of 2007 not to initial interim agreements. As a result, they've since had access to EU markets under GSP or other regimes. These are less generous than EPAs. It is not fair that countries that have only initialled, but not yet signed, EPAs receive better treatment than countries that chose not to initial EPAs.

The EU wants ACP countries to offer the same trade terms they offer to the EU's major competitors, such as China or India. Why is this?

With EPAs, the EU offers 100 per cent free access to its market from day one. By contrast, ACP partners only have to open 80 per cent of their markets to the EU. EU producers are often more competitive. Many ACP countries' have sensitive sectors of their economies, such as agriculture, which they need to protect. So we're happy for them to shield up to 20 per cent of their trade with us.

But imagine this scenario: one particular ACP region signs an EPA with the EU. In the agreement it protects its market in drawing pins from competition from the EU. It imposes import tariffs on EU exports. Meanwhile, it can export anything it wishes to the EU – no tariffs, no quotas – from the day it signs the EPA. Then, a few years later, it frees up its market in drawing pins to imports from one of the EU's major competitors. It decides it no longer needs to protect drawing pins and cuts its tariffs on all imports from that country. If it does so,

I believe it should treat the EU in the same way. It's only fair. Even more so, I repeat, since the EU opened 100% of its market to the ACP region in question when the EPA was signed.

So we've included in our agreements a clause which covers this, known as the MFN clause. Of course, it only applies to ACP countries' future agreements with our major competitors. It doesn't apply to their agreements with other ACP countries. So they can continue to free up trade with other ACP countries as much as they wish, without having to do so with the EU.

EPAs aim to bring ACP regions closer together. How will this happen in Southern Africa?

Before the EPA negotiations started, all countries in the SADC region enjoyed the same trade preferences with the EU. There was just one exception – South Africa – with whom we had a separate agreement. So another sub-regional grouping, the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) had already split into two groups, each with its own trade arrangements with the EU.

And some countries were part of three different customs unions – either current or planned. If anything, SADC's EPA with the EU will help to harmonise these regimes, by applying the same terms of trade to all countries in the region.

Keywords

Joao Aguiar Machado; EPAs; Trade; ECOWAS; SADC; SACU; Pacific; Cotonou Agreement; MFN; EDF.

ACP-EU trade and development agreements: signed already (as of August 1 2009)*

Agreement type	Signed with...		Date
Full – trade in goods & services, investment, other issues	Region	Caribbean	2008
Interim – trade in goods only	Region	SADC – some SADC states: Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland	2009
		Country	Côte d'Ivoire
	Country	Cameroon	2009

* Directorate for Trade, European Commission

Fresh impetus for Pacific-EU EPA talks?

Joachim Keil, Samoa's Associate Minister to the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour is lead negotiator on an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the Pacific region and the European Union (EU). Twelve of the Pacific Forum's 14 Member States who are members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group, are yet to initial any sort of EPA with the EU. At the end of 2007, Papua New Guinea and Fiji signed up to an interim 'goods only' agreement with the EU.*



Merchant vessel loading, Apia dock, Samoa, 2009. © Debra Percival

Joachim Keil told us that a “fence-mending exercise” is underway with sights set on concluding a ‘full’ EPA between all the Pacific’s 14 and the EU’s 27 by yearend. “Since Fiji and Papua New Guinea are Middle Income Countries, they would have had the most to lose 18 months ago when preferences on ACP goods in the EU market under the Cotonou agreement expired on 31 December 2007” said Minister Keil. Least Developed Countries (LDC) such as Samoa are still able to benefit from free access to the EU market under the ‘Everything But Arms’ initiative.

“At and end of 2007, there was a bad feeling nobody wanted to talk to each other for about a year”, said Joachim Keil. Although some talks did take place in 2008, “there were issues where the EU would not relent and others where the Pacific would not relent”, said Keil.

➤ MFN worries

As still unresolved issues, that of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status is crucial. Keil explained that what is at stake here is the fact that whatever is agreed under EPA could trigger demands from New Zealand

and Australia for reciprocal MFN benefits under ‘PACER-plus’ the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER). Talks on PACER-plus between all 16 Pacific states are expected to follow on from the Cairns Summit of Pacific leaders in the first week of August 2009.

Explained Keil: “We are coming to PACER-plus at the moment and worried about losing tariff revenues. At recent meetings, they have said that because we are negotiating with Europe, they are entitled to negotiate with us. But we have only negotiated (an EPA) with two countries (Papua New Guinea and Fiji) and we say it’s a matter of interpretation. Pacific countries are worried that anything agreed with Australia and New Zealand under PACER will have to be reciprocated to the EU countries and anything under EPA, extended to Australia and New Zealand”.

Another outstanding issue is export taxes (some Pacific countries raise a lot of revenue this way); also services. Joachim Keil says the Pacific wants, say, two year work visas to be given to 10,000 Pacific semi-skilled

workers for industries such as hospitality, care and construction in the EU. Simpler rules of origin for goods are also on the Pacific wish-list and the region wants the EU to be more forthcoming on the amount of aid available for trade, said Keil. **D.P.**

* ACP members of the Pacific Islands Forum: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Keywords

Joachim Keil; EPAs; PACER-plus; PIF; Samoa ; Debra Percival.

Sportsman, businessman and beach culture promoter

Bernard Babb*

A day in the life of Brian 'Action Man' Talma

For more than 15 years on the professional windsurfing circuit, Brian 'Action Man' Talma rode a wave of popularity while cementing his place among the world's best water sports competitors. Up to 2005, when the Barbadian officially retired from the professional circuit, he was rated among the top 12 in the world and today still boasts one of the most recognisable faces in the global water sports and beach culture arena.

Brian Talma paddling at South Point, Barbados, April 2009. © Kenny Hewitt, Bajan X

The truth is, Talma has been more than a world-rated windsurfer, sailor and water sports aficionado.

With a myriad of TV appearances and his image splashed across the leading magazines of his sport, he has been a poster boy for Barbados and Caribbean island destinations and a walking advertisement for his own 'Beach Culture' project. His bronzed body, sun-bleached locks, piercing blue-green eyes and ready smile have all helped position him as a strong marketing image in the water sports world. Talma lives for the beach life and has forever changed the way water-sports and beach culture are viewed in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

These days, at age 44, the 'Action Man' channels his energies into promoting the 'Beach Culture World Tour', which involves appearances at selected events in Europe and the Americas, promoting branded beach-wear, organising the annual 'Waterman Festival' in Barbados, attracting international media to the island and managing the

'Action Man' beach-shop at Silver Sands, on the southern edge of the island.

➤ Billion dollar beach culture

"I will do about 12 countries this year as part of the 'Beach Culture' tour. The greatest satisfaction about this is the international community recognising what I mean about beach culture. It is a lifestyle and it is a billion-dollar industry. Names such as *Quiksilver*, *Billabong*, *Gotcha* and *Chiemsee* all have clothing and there are shops which sell the equipment and the image is spreading," says Talma.

Though he projects the fun-loving, bohemian image, this belies the 'Action Man's' shrewd business sense. For many years, he has been able to use windsurfing to promote Barbados as a major adventure destination for active, outgoing people.

Throughout his career, Talma was not the typical professional sportsman who concentrated on his game and left day-to-

day arrangements and financial details to minders and managers. Unlike most others, he was able to straddle the disciplines of sportsman, business manager and promoter. Though not competing these days, Talma is still active and on a typical day, he rises early in the morning and heads to the beach and his shop at Silver Sands.

"I go to the shop every morning once I'm in the island. The shop is a business but also a part of the community at Silver Sands where fellows from the area work as part of the operation. We offer windsurfing and kite-surfing instruction and some equipment for rentals, as well as food," he says.

"People from all over the world come to the 'Action Shop' and the beach at Silver Sands. My 'Beach Culture tour' has helped to generate a lot of business in this area. I enjoy interacting and riding the waves with them and seeing them enjoy the experience in Barbados".

"From my shop, I also keep in contact with



for Hawaii and Orlando (USA) in August. “For me beach culture is a way of life and also creates jobs and other opportunities in tourism”, he says.

➤ Promoting Barbados

Talma’s ideas have been embraced by some of the formal players in the tourism sector and he partners with the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) in promoting the island destination as a haven for sun-drenched beaches and amazing water-sports activities. The ‘Waterman festival’, which brings water-loving visitors from around the world to take part in such sports as wind-surfing, kite-surfing, body-boarding, beach-cricket and other activities, is also supported by the BTA and some airline and hotel partners. Personalities such as former world freestyle windsurf champion Josh ‘Aloha Man’ Stone, Kelly Slater and veteran Kevin Sayer, have been among those appearing at the festival which has generated publicity in all corners of the globe, including coverage by ‘Gillette Wide World of Sports.’

While Talma and his compatriots are proud of his achievements and his international recognition, it has not been an easy road for a man who struggled with dyslexia in the first half of his life. In spite of the challenges, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Eckerd College in St.Petersburg, Florida.

“I love the sport, the people I meet and the places I go. Beach culture keeps you young and fresh. It pushes you to the limit and makes you achieve your full potential,” he says. Talma can be as philosophical as he is complex: “The lifestyle gives me freedom and flexibility. I

am my own boss and I have my own rules. But it’s not always easy. It is a business after all and, as strange as it may sound, I have to work hard to maintain my lifestyle.”

He was one of the first Barbadian sporting personalities to appear on leading American and European television networks, including MTV Sports, ESPN, the Discovery Channel, Sky TV and VOX TV in Germany. “When I became a professional windsurfer I wanted to break all of the barriers and stigmas. I could say I lived my dream and now I would love to see other people live their dreams”, he reflects.

* Barbadian journalist.

Keywords

Brian Talma; Barbados; BTA; Waterman Festival; windsurfing; Beach Culture World Tour; Silver Sands.

friends and business connections around the world, answering calls and returning emails. Sometimes it can get very busy”, adds Talma.

For the last three years, he has also hosted a camp for children, teaching them the basics of windsurfing and other watersports activities as part of his effort to leave a lasting legacy and keep the beach-culture alive. When the *The Courier* met Talma, he was in between starring for an international video production and promoting the *Chiemsee* brand of beach-clothing. He has been sponsored by the German company for several years and the four-day shoot incorporated windsurfing and other aspects of beach-culture at Silver Sands and some other specially chosen venues on the island.

Following the production with *Chiemsee*, the Barbadian was booked to attend the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Germany in July, where his image was to be used at the event to promote the *Chiemsee* line. Two other promotional events were also scheduled



Brian Talma (right) with brother.
© Kenny Hewitt, Bajan X



A green belt across the Sahel

Agroforestry project in Region of Madaoua, Niger, 2009. © Marie-Martine Buckens

Building islands of fertile land that will progressively form a Great Green Wall from Senegal to Djibouti. This is the ambition of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), a priority action for the EU-Africa Partnership on Climate Change. This large-scale project will be officially launched in the coming months.

A Great Green Wall. It conjures up an image of a gigantic barrier of trees defying the advancement of the desert. Not so; the GGWSSI initiative is much more complex and holistic, despite the fact that it was originally devised as a large-scale tree plantation scheme, as was the case in Senegal. “The Great Green Wall is essentially a project aiming to adopt sustainable land management practices that directly benefits the local users of the land”, insists Jozias Blok, who is responsible for the project at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Development. Last May, during a workshop to evaluate the scope and pre-feasibility of the GGWSSI, Amos Tincani,

head of the European Commission’s delegation in Burkina Faso, said: “This initiative is unique. It is being fostered and driven by Africa, and aims to catalyse sustainable development and poverty reduction in the desert regions bordering on the north and south of the Sahara, where annual rainfall is between 100 and 400 millimetres.”

➤ **Catalyst**

Initially launched in 2005 by then Nigerian President, Olesegun Obasanjo, at an African Union (AU) summit, the project, which is now led by the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), has progressed. A series of experiments – from the planting of trees

in Senegal to agro-forestry – have already been conducted in most of the countries concerned. On the basis of these practices, the AU Executive Committee adopted an action plan project last February. The pre-feasibility study has just been completed, and its conclusions underline significant advantages. According to the authors of the report, the Great Green Wall will provide no less than “a catalyst for extensive scaling of clear practices for sustainable land management, enabling damaged ecosystems to be transformed into productive agro-ecosystems. It will also increase food production and food safety, promote renewable energies and help the most vulnerable populations to adapt to climate change.”

In actual fact, the GGWSSI reintroduces practices – some of which are supported by the European Union or covered by programmes such as TerrAfrica, LADA or Solarid – which have been known since

the dawn of time, but were discarded for many reasons, including attempts at monoculture coupled with persisting droughts. Sustainable agriculture lies persistent the heart of all of these programmes. Quoting

the World Bank, Mr Tincani said that sustainable agriculture “is widely recognised as a fundamental and particularly powerful instrument to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction insofar as it contributes to development as an economic activity, means of subsistence, and supplier of environmental services.” The icing on the cake is that sustainable land management is a powerful tool for adapting to climate change, but also for preserving nature and agro-biodiversity. **M.M.B.**

The Great Green Wall will be 15 kilometres wide and more than 7 thousand kilometres long. It will cross Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan and Eritrea before ending in Djibouti. The construction of 80 retention basins per country crossed and the introduction of wild animals in the vegetation created are also foreseen. Although the initiative depends on existing exper-

iences, it must now disseminate good practices, and plan and design larger-scale projects. As this is a long-term initiative, its budget is rather difficult to estimate, but for the forthcoming decade, the African Union foresees an indicative budget of some US\$ 600 million without taking into account the action plans that every country must now put into place. **M.M.B.**

Keywords

Great Green Wall; GGWSSI; Sahel; Sahara; Niger; Jozias Blok; M. Tincani; agro-forestry; agropastoral; Marie-Martine Buckens.

THE VIRTUES OF ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISES

In the south-east of Niger, around the cities of Zinder and Maradi, there are agro-forest and agropastoral areas where fruit trees (date palms, mango trees) and trees for charcoal grow. In the basins between these trees, vegetables are cultivated, often providing between two and four harvests a year. This ‘natural assisted regeneration’ is remarkable, in the view of the two consultants in charge of the pre-feasibility study of the Great Green Wall, because “the ecological and economic crises of the 1970s and 1980s encouraged producers to systematically invest in the protection and management of trees and to develop new agro-forest parks and more complex and more productive production systems.” It should be noted that these efforts were supported by the development of government policies and various projects. The consultants added that “the macro-economic and macro-political conditions in Niger between 1985 and 2000 were not very encouraging, and it is therefore surprising that, despite these conditions, farmers still continued to develop agro-forest parks. They created ‘win-win’ situations as they improved their revenues and their environment.”

According to Mahaman Laminou Attaou,

National Coordinator in Niger for the Great Green Wall project, these practices “have a threefold advantage. They enable the regeneration of the ground water and the vegetation – firstly for fodder plants to re-establish grazing – and allow secondary needs to be met, by providing firewood, vegetables and fruit, which are

especially important for children suffering from malnutrition.” He added: “It is a question of vision; one of our proverbs says that ‘your rooster is a camel’. Our forests are not comparable to the Congo’s, but our farmers reap the same benefits from them, whether on an economic, cultural, sanitary or environmental level.” **M.M.B.**



Mahaman Laminou Attaou, 2009. © Marie-Martine Buckens

A report by Debra Percival

Samoa

Apia harbour, Samoa 2009. © Debra Percival

Seeking to burst through

If Samoa were not two long haul flights away from Europe, it would be overrun with tourists for the sheer beauty of its sea and landscapes. Located just to the east of the international date line in the vast Pacific Ocean, its unique Polynesian culture is intact; from the matai – the chiefs who make decisions in villages, to respect for fa’afafine – men who would rather be women. It’s one of the few places where you can sleep soundly in an open beach fale (wooden hut) without intrusion.

Independent since 1962, its Fono or Parliament, has 49 members; 47 Samoan nationals – who have to be matai – are directly elected for five years by the people with two seats reserved for foreign nationals. The legislature elects the Prime Minister, currently Tuila’epa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi. On 17 June 2007, it also elected for the first time a Head of State, Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi, for five years. The move to a de jure republic followed the death of Malietoa Tanumafili II who was the last remaining life-long appoint-

ed Head of State of the two chosen by the New Zealand trusteeship prior to independence.

A member of the 16 member Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the country is a major regional player. The Prime Minister has spoken openly against the perpetrators of the December 2006 coup in Fiji. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) are located in its capital, Apia. Samoa’s Associate Trade Minister, Hans Joachim Keil, is spokesperson for all Pacific islands countries in talks with New Zealand and Australia on a Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER-Plus), also with the EU on a future Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Pacific countries who are members of the Cotonou agreement. Like other small island Pacific states, Samoa is vigilant about not becoming submerged in such bigger regional markets, particularly in these times of global economic downturn.

Tradition, belief and challenges

Samoa consists of five populated islands Upolu, whose capital Apia is the seat of government, Savai'i, Apolima, Manono and Namua – and five uninhabited ones. Its seafaring population of 186,000 is thought to have migrated west from the East Indies, Malay peninsula or the Philippines. The oldest human settlement on Samoa dates back to 1000 BC.

The country has become the centre of Polynesian culture, where migrations to other such Marquesas in the east and south to Niue and the Pukapuka islands of Rarotonga; and north to the Tokelau and Tuvalu islands started. At the beginning of the 18th century, there was some European presence and from the mid-1800s, religious missionaries.

Throughout the 19th century, Great Britain, Germany and the United States set up trading posts and latterly all claimed part of the Kingdom. 1899 saw a Tripartite Commission consisting of the United States, Germany and the UK sign an agreement which led to Samoa's partition. Germany received the Western part, becoming known as German Samoa, then Western Samoa and eventually, Samoa, whereas the US negotiated control of Tutuila, Aunu'u and Manu'a which became American Samoa. To give a semblance of local governance, the German administration brought in the idea



Budding seafarers 2009. © Debra Percival



Agriculture has a lot of potential. Organic fruit and vegetable basket sold through 'Women in Business'
© Debra Percival

of *Fautua* or advisers chosen from the four paramount chiefs.

New Zealand occupied Samoa at the outbreak of World War One in 1914, and took up administrative control, first under the League of Nations and then under a United Nations trusteeship, Germany having relinquished its claims in the 1919 Treaty of Versailles.

From 1908, there was a growing movement for independence led by the *Mau* (meaning 'strongly held opinion') movement. It gained support from the country's paramount chiefs and strongly opposed violence. In 1929, however, Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole, one of the two *Fautua* to the New Zealand Administration, was shot at during a peace-

ful demonstration in Apia. He later became one of those who drew up the independence Constitution and subsequently Samoa's Ole Ao o le Malo, co-head of state on independence in 1962 until his death the following year, a post held jointly with Malietoa Tanumafili II. In July 1997, the constitution was amended to change the country's name from Western Samoa to Samoa.

Striking churches of every denomination are focal points in villages and Samoans are extremely conscientious in paying their financial contributions to local heads of religion. A daily prayer curfew is respected, particularly on Savai'i from 6-7 pm every evening. Sunday dress code for church attendance for both men and women is white. The influence of the matai – the

Chiefs of over 400 villages – who total about 18,000 is strong. They gather in *Fale Fono* – an open meeting place with vertical wooden struts or pillars – to take decisions affecting the whole village.

The structure of Samoan society has interested many anthropologists such as American Margaret Mead whose controversial 1928 book, ‘Coming of Age on Samoa’ rocked Western society in suggesting that Samoan adolescents suffered less of a traumatic transition from adolescence to adulthood, many women putting off marriage and enjoying casual relationships before eventually settling down and successfully raising children.

► “Subsistence opulence”

Deputy Prime Minister, Misa Telefoni-Retzlaff describes the livelihoods of Samoans as “subsistence opulence”. “It’s opulence but we are a Least Developed Country (LDC)”, he says. You understand what he means by travelling around Samoa. Outwardly, there are few signs of poverty because everyone is helping one another to get by.

As a result, “We have been successful in delaying lifting of (LDC) status”, explains the deputy Prime Minister. The uncertain effects of the current global economic crisis on Samoa, which is scheduled to become a Middle Income Country in December 2010, are a big cause for concern. He told us that 2015 was now a more feasible date for Samoa’s graduation to Middle Income status.

In his March 2009/2010 budget speech, Finance Minister Niko Lee Hang said the next three years would be “extremely challenging” for the country. Although the economic mainstays, private remittances from Samoans living overseas and tourism, are still expanding, Samoa’s highly open economy and weak fiscal resilience would make it more difficult to cushion the impact of economic downturn, said Hang in his budget speech. For the first time in 10 years, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was contracting after having expanded four per cent over the last four years. He said there would be a budget deficit of \$189.4M* Tala this year. There was particular criticism of the budget’s health and

education cuts by opposition parliamentarians although Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi told us that this was due to some projects in both sectors ending his year.

Deputy Prime Minister Telefoni told us: “Remittances haven’t fallen, tourism revenue hasn’t fallen, but we’ve had a massive downturn in buying power. What are people doing with their money? Some people say they are paying debt – getting ready for the hard times. According to the banking system there is \$17M Tala excess credit with no one to lend to”.

‘Outwardly, there are few signs of poverty because everyone is helping one another to get by,’



Sunday afternoon stroll, 2009. © Debra Percival

The government is placing emphasis on diversifying exports of both agricultural produce (see article on agriculture) and manufactured goods and services – from setting up a call centre to developing future rugby stars (many players from the national side Manu Samoa already have contracts to play in Australia, New Zealand and Europe leagues).

The aim is for goods exports to contribute 10 per cent or \$100M Tala of real GDP by 2012 and remittances and tourism together to contribute 70 per cent or \$800M Tala to GDP by the same year. And although, at 120,000 km², Samoa has the smallest Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Pacific, a bigger place in the economy is seen for fish exports which accounted for 55 per cent of total commodity exports in 2007.

Samoa is not only challenged by changing economic tides but also by climate change. But Dr Tu’u’u Ieti Taulealo, Chief Executive Officer at the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment told us that some renewable energy technology such as solar power, already installed on Apolima (which only has 100 residents), was expensive. He spoke about the “innovative ways to conserve forests” such as assistance with marketing of produce to boost earnings from cultivated land which would encourage people to leave forest areas intact. **D.P.**

* 1 Tala = €3.8 (10/7/2009 Bloomberg)

Keywords

Samoa; Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi; Misa Telefoni Retzlaff; Dr. Tu’u’u Ieti Taulealo; exports; tourism; Manu Samoa; Debra Percival.



Samoa confronts global economic crisis

Interview with Prime Minister Tuila'epa Lupefeso Sailele Malielegaoi

47th Independence Day Anniversary celebrations 2009. © Debra Percival

Economist, Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi, was elected to the Samoan Parliament in 1981 as a member of the Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP). He has been Prime Minister since November 1998, winning a third five-year term in April 2006 with 35 seats in the Fono*. He was previously Deputy Prime Minister and held various Ministerial posts under the administrations of former PM Tofilau Eti Alesana. Between 1978-1980 he was an expert in intra-ACP trade at the ACP Secretariat in Brussels.

How is the global economic crisis hitting Samoa?

Samoa has been seriously affected by the economic crisis in terms of the drop in corporate income, hitting revenue and duties as well as the tax on profit. We had to slash our expenditure impacting on what government can do this year.

Our development partners have, to a certain extent, fortunately assisted us. For the current year, New Zealand and Australia are providing grants as budget support. Some of the things we cannot do have had to be deferred to next year. We are coping well in terms of food security with a good programme for replanting and agricultural initiatives at the local level to promote food production and construction of plantation roads to help transport food items from farms to market. This goes hand in hand with our recent reforms to change the side of

the road (A government decision was taken to switch from driving on the right to left side of the road from 7 September 2009).

Is Samoa too dependent on remittances (accounting for 25 per cent of GDP) and overseas aid?

Remittances will not suddenly stop – it is a culture of countries which have huge populations outside; a mentality of taking care of your people (There are 140,000-150,000 Samoans in New Zealand, over 100,000 the US and 50,000 in Australia.) We need continuity of development partnership to ensure that our own economies are developing and providing a market for development partners' products. It's two-way development, not just aid in itself but as an investment for future trade flows.

How is Samoa adapting to climate change?

Three major cyclones in succession: 1990 and 1991 – another in 1993 caused hundreds of millions of dollars' damage to our country. We have adjusted our own policies to make sure that we too contribute to the efforts to reduce the emission of dangerous gases to the atmosphere and are engaged in both mitigation and adaptation. We are promoting replanting, looking at renewable energy sources; especially wind and solar and have introduced hydropower. Residents of one island – Apolima (just 100 residents) are supplied with solar energy. We are in contact with a major company in Australia which would make solar a lot more popular source, not only for Samoa but for other Pacific countries too. A huge number of projects for the protection of our sea shores from impact from the tides and rising sea levels have been completed. We are fortunate that Samoa is a volcanic island. It is part of our own adaptation process to construct good access roads to the planta-

tions to encourage people to move up into the plantations so they can live on farms on higher ground which will also make our people more productive.

The opposition criticises Samoa for being a one-party state

Our democracy is the longest standing in a Pacific island country – 47 years of independence. In the past, we had times when there were four changes of government in one year – especially when we introduced the party system which created instability. Parliamentarians were crossing and re-crossing the floor, so we decided to inject some elements into our laws to create stability. One of the provisions is that we would recognise parties in Parliament with at least eight members. With 49 members in our Parliament: if you divide by eight, you can conceptually have six parties in the House. The reason for not going below eight was to discourage the existence of so many parties. We wanted a position whereby we should have two or three major parties to stabilise the government.

The other provision in our laws is that on taking your oath, you can only become an independent if you do not adhere to a party, but you cannot form or join another political party. If for some reason you come in as a member of the Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP) and you leave, you can change to being an independent. But if you decide to join another party then you should honourably and voluntarily resign your seat and go back and have a by-election, giving your voters an opportunity to express their decision. Five parties contested the election in 2006 and a huge number of independents. When the results came out only two made it; our party (35 seats) and the major opposition party, the SDUP (10 seats). Things remained at that status for several months but a dispute was already boiling in the opposition party over its leadership. The deputy wanted to take over the leadership; there was a big dispute and the leader resigned. Immediately the SDUP dropped to less than eight and all were declared as independents. That's how Samoa became a one-party state – not because of our doing, but because of indecision and lack of cohesion by the opposition.

Should the international community be tougher on Fiji?

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) was specific on sanctions; the government members



Prime Minister, Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi 2009. © Debra Percival

have travel bans but not ordinary Fijians. This reflects the general thinking of the international community that even if the people in power are corrupt, you must ensure you do not make people suffer. It is unfortunate that the military in Fiji should be misguided that they can do better than the civilian government. Fiji has some of the most highly educated people in the Pacific, especially in the public service trained to run the government. They have been sacked left, right and centre and the military put in whose only knowledge is to aim and shoot and march. They are handling complex issues beyond their comprehension. The international community should be extremely tight in refusing any assistance to the government because it would syphoned

off by the military to perpetuate their hold on the power. It is unfortunate that Fiji has an army. It can only create difficulties for any civilian government. **D.P.**

* In the Fono, all seats but two are reserved for ethnic Samoans and only chiefs – known as 'matai' can stand for election. Two seats are reserved for foreigners. The Fono chooses the prime minister.

Keywords

Debra Percival; Tuila'epa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi; HRPP; Fono; climate change; Fiji.



Typical Samoan village Fono, meeting place of the matai. Traditional and western-style governance run alongside. © Debra Percival

Opposition calls for “checks and balances”

With two members, the Samoa Democratic United Party (SDUP) is Samoa’s biggest opposition party. Both sit as ‘independents’ in the Fono (Parliament) since under Standing Orders, only eight or more members are required to form a party in the House. SDUP leader, Asiata Saleimoa Vaai, says leadership problems have dogged his party’s progress, shrinking its number from the 10 members elected in the 2006 general elections.



Asiata Saleimoa Vaai, leader, Samoa Democratic United Party (SDUP) 2009.
© Debra Percival

In December 2008, a new political party, the Tautua Samoa Party (TSP) was launched. Led by Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi, its establishment was partly fuelled by the switch to driving on the left side of the road from the right. Going to press, the Speaker of the Fono ruled that the Tautua members must face by-elections, since they were all previously officially recognised as ‘independents’ in parliament. This has since prompted a legal challenge from Tautua.

Meeting in Apia, we asked Asiata Saleimoa Vaai why there’s no strong opposition party in Samoa?

Twenty years ago, there were more viable oppositions. Over the years, the present party has reduced opposition by manipulating rules to their own advantage. The parliament is fully dominated by the ruling party. Everyone in government has a ministerial post. There is no independence in the public service. All this has had the consequence of making Samoa a one-party state. There

is just one party and they are doing their best to stop any other emerging. Under the law, if you leave one party, you cannot join another: If you do, you lose your seat. There are some people now who have lost their seats (Ed: Samoa Tautua members). They did not come from a party; they were truly ‘independents’ and moved to form a party. The Speaker just seems to be making up the rules as he goes along.

What are the SDUP’s political objectives?

Our basic objective is to make this a democratic government. In the past few years, I have been saying that this is a one-party state because Samoa is a homogenous country: we have a very strong cultural system where we are all connected by such things as titles and put up with one another. The government is using our traditional system to get a stronghold on the country. On policies, including those related to the economy, there is little difference between parties. The one major policy issue where there are differences is government’s neglect of the agricultural sector. It used to be one of the major sectors and is now one of the small ones.

What sort of democratic change are you seeking?

If you look at it closely, the checks and balances between the Parliament and Executive have been removed. The Parliament does not scrutinise the Executive. The Speaker has his own rules and is coming out with outrageous decisions. Last month, I was

prosecuted for contempt of Court when I accused the Chief Justice of being biased. Because we are a peaceful people, we see everyone as our relatives and put up with a lot of rubbish. The government has its tentacles into the villages. As you know, we have a chiefly system (known as the ‘matai’ – see separate article). Without checks and balances in government, I really don’t now how we are going to overcome this. **D.P.**

Keywords

Samoa Democratic United Party (SDUP); Asiata Saleimoa Vaai; Samoa Tautua Party (STP); Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi; Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP); Debra Percival.



Government poster advertising road swap. Opposition parties object 2009. © Debra Percival

Grasping the agricultural nettle

For many far-flung small islands like Samoa, competing with bigger economies in the global marketplace is not easy in the best of times. Samoa is taking on the difficult global economic climate, trying to diversify its agricultural production and carve niche markets overseas especially for fair trade and organic produce including noni juice and coconut oil. At the same time, the government is encouraging Talomua, or increased self-sufficiency in food.

Seventy-seven per cent of all Samoans are agriculturally active with an estimated 37,000 smallholders working plots of under 10 acres. Agriculture is key to the National Export Strategy (2008-2012) with an aim to use 50 per cent of land suitable for agriculture by 2012 to bring down costly imported foodstuffs. Statistics from the Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC) show that the value of imports of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables to Samoa was some \$US1.5M in 2007.

Agriculture's contribution to national income fell from 16.1 per cent in 1994 to 7 per cent in 2007, according to Samoan government statistics. The aim is for food exports to contribute 10 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or \$US100M by 2012. Domestic production also has to supply a growing number of visitors to Samoa. Or in the words of Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister, Misa Retzlaff Telefoni: "Tourism provides the greatest challenge to farming".

To stimulate agriculture, a 'Consultation on the effects the Global Financial Crisis on the Economy of Samoa', which took place in March 2009 gathering Samoans from all sectors, suggested: decreasing prohibitive loans interest in sector; promoting development of idle lands; an investment act for commercial agriculture; an abattoir for local meat consumption; a heat treatment facility



Garry Vui picks a noni berry 2009. © Debra Percival

for fruit and vegetables; increased land use for agriculture; greater conformity with international production norms and a model for leasing of customary land.

► Help for farmers

Grant Percival, Chairman of the Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters, told us that he was disappointed that Samoa, still a least Developed Country (LDC), was not one of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states to recently receive a

boost under the EC's one-off €1bn 'food facility' for farmers. He said that wind-breaks, improved irrigation and shade and fencing to de-lineate land were all needed as well as more local processing of animal feed, fruit and vegetables and more organic varieties to meet increased demand, particularly from New Zealand.

In March 2009, Percival chaired a meeting which brought together farmers, NGOs, government and the private sector (in the unique 'Fa'a Samoa' way which encompass-

WOMEN IN BUSINESS WITH... THE BODY SHOP

Women in Business Foundation Inc. was set up 20 years ago to provide advice and support for women who were keen to get going in business. Since then, it has extended its services more generally to groups such as disadvantaged rural families and the disabled, explains its president, Adi Tafuna'i. In a recent agreement with the United Kingdom's (UK) cosmetics company, *The Body Shop*, coconut oil from Samoa is used in a new improved range of coconut bath and beauty range, available globally from June 2009. Women in Business which is also a recipient of aid under the EC's microprojects programme – is organising a network of 200 coconut pressers to provide organic coconut oil to *The Body Shop* in

return for a fair wage under cosmetic chain's Community Trade scheme to assist small farmers.

Says Adi Tafuna'i: "The beauty of organics and fair trade is that value is added at the farm gate, giving the farmer maximum benefits. Our project is beginning to bear fruit, as it now makes an impact on the rural Samoan economy".

"The expertise and wisdom of the Samoan coconut growers enables them to extract an organically certified coconut oil using natural extraction processes, without the use of chemicals, thus ensuring the highest level of purity", reads the Body Shop's promotional material for coconut oil produced in the "last place on the Earth where the sun rises".



© Debra Percival

NONI: THE WONDER BERRY

Glowing with health, Garry Vui is a walking advert for his own product – noni juice – pressed from the berry that grows wild throughout Samoa. He is president of the recently formed Noni Producer Association which is promoting the vitamin-packed product.

Health-boosting claims have been made for the berry from a hair restorer to a can-

cer cure. Purists prefer to gulp it down but since it is something of an acquired taste, the blend with grape juice is more palatable for most. Vui says that the Samoan product is registered by the New Zealand National Association for Sustainable Agriculture (NASAA) as an organic product, although he also produces noni without the organic label. Sitting down with us at the Noni Samoa Processing factory at Vaivase-uta, Vui explains that shipment from Samoa began in 2000 when the price was high, peaking in 2006. Since then, the price has fallen off. Berries are

pressed and the juice is then filtered and pasteurised (a process taking between 30-90 days) and sold in bulk to Japan and US other markets where, once bottled, it can fetch between \$US15-18 for 750 mls. In spite of keen competition from Tahiti and Hawaii, he believes that the best quality noni is Samoan and says the country has potential to expand beyond current annual sales of \$US3.5-4.4M, especially into shampoos and beauty products... if the financial backing were there.

es all interested parties) to draw up a fruit and vegetable sector strategy. In the short-term (2009-2012), this suggests increasing local market production of eggplants, cabbages, citrus fruit, lettuce, herbs, tomatoes, mangoes, pineapples, papaya, cucumber and bananas as well as chutneys, honey, jams and dried fruit.

It also foresees, in the short-term, a market for fresh exports of: organic bananas, coffee, cocoa and coconut, plus cabbages, tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, limes, pomelo and

grapefruit for markets in Tokelau, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Australia and the Samoan community in New Zealand. And noni juice, coconut oil, coconut water, snack foods fruits like banana and pineapple and flour have potential markets in all the above-mentioned countries as well as Fiji, says the strategy.

In the longer term (2013-2014), increased production of onions, carrots, garlic man-gosteen and processed fruit juices, frozen potatoes and vegetables, bottled and canned

fruit, chili and tomato sauce for the domestic market are foreseen whereas there is potential to export some organic fruit, exotic rarity fruit and organic herbs to New Zealand Australia and the US and processed organic products, sauces, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables and dried fruit vacpack taro and yams, also to the EU. **D.P.**

Keywords

Agriculture; Misa Retzlaff Telefoni; Grant Percival; Samoa; The Body Shop; Adi Tafuna'i; Garry Vui; Debra Percival.

The flow to budget aid

Samoa is in line to be one of the first Pacific countries where EC aid will be channelled directly to the government's budget, specifically the water and sanitation sector where the EC has already built up expertise. The switch to budget support builds on previous EDF programmes for the sector and is testament to the government's good public finance management, say EC officials.

Under the €30M allocation from the 10th European Development (2008-2013) for Samoa, a €25.5M sum is earmarked for a Water and Sanitation Sector Policy Support Programme. The other main focus is a €3M Civil Society Support Project and €1.5M for general technical assistance, studies and training.

The focus on water and sanitation fits with the Government's Strategy for Development of Samoa (2008-2012) which highlights the sector as a key service area. This is expanded upon in the 'Water for life: Sector Plan and Framework for Action' and the 'National Water Resource Management Strategy 2007-2017'.

The EC has become the lead donor in the water and sanitation sector. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is also providing finance. The 8th EDF (1995-2000) funded a Rural Water Supply Project (RWS); a mix of water infrastructure and public sanitation schemes. This was followed by the 9th EDF's €20.1M Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) where funds were used for construction of pre-fabricated water storage facilities, installation of chlorination plants and for the rehabilitation of distribution systems to connect household and public sanitation units, covering both schemes of the Samoa Water Authority (SWA) and those run by independent communities which currently supply 15 per cent of population.

> Logical step

"The next logical step is to give increased ownership to the government, and to root the sector in a favourable public finance management and macroeconomic environment through budget support", explains Thomas Opperer, Head of the EC's Office in Samoa. The 9th EDF (2000-2007) paved the way for the transition from a project to sector approach, which will also target increased institutional cooperation, improved planning and water resource management whilst continuing to fund infrastructure for water and sanitation schemes run by both the SWA and independent communities, says Nick Roberts, an EC-funded technical expert working in Samoa's Ministry of Finance. Noumea Simi, Samoa's deputy National Authorising Officer who manages donor projects says that the running of the 9th EDF programme ahead of budget aid had "made us look in depth at our own public management systems".

Thomas Opperer says the transition to budget support reflects Samoa's stability oriented macro-economic policy, improvements in the public finance management system and the well defined policies in the water sector. The 10th EDF budget support will be disbursed in tranches in dialogue with the Samoan authorities on the fulfilment of a set of criteria including increased access to safe and reliable drinking water, increased cost recovery for water and sanitation services and an improved local governance by village managed water schemes.



Construction of water tank, SWA 2009. © Debra Percival

The institutional framework in the sector has been established under national leadership supported by the 9th EDF Programme. The Joint Water Sector Steering Committee involves government, civil society, service providers and development partners. It guides and coordinates sector development effectively and is the engine of Samoa's integrated approach towards water resource management and service delivery, says Thomas Opperer. The focus now for Government is to strengthen the institutional arrangements for sector management as well as capacity building for all implementing agencies including the independent water schemes association.

> Civil society's key role

The 10th EDF's €3M four-year Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), due to get off the ground in 2010, will build on others financed by the EC since 1995, backing small income-generating and social projects run by community-based organisations and NGOs. In an interview, Deputy Prime Minister Misa Telefoni told us that he sees such income-generating micro-projects as one of the country's priorities for economic development. They work particularly well in Samoa where there is a strong sense of community.

According to a 2002 household survey, 7.6 per cent of Samoans live below the food



Tank attached to an independently-run sanitation scheme 2009. © Debra Percival

poverty line and 20.3 per cent below the basic needs poverty line, lacking access to employment opportunities and basic services such as health and education.

Under previous EDFs, the recipients of EC funds contributed 25 per cent of the total cost of income-generating projects and for social projects, 10 per cent. At the time of going to press, finishing touches were being put to the outline of the new four-year 10th EDF CSSP programme which is also expected to permit contributions in kind from recipients such as building materials or labour, as well as cash. The new CSSP also aims to strengthen the management and business orientation of recipients as well as assisting dialogue of NGOs with government and networking.

Other donors who have pledged funds to the CSSP are; NZAID €950,000, (New Zealand), and AUSAID €1.41M (Australian) and the GEF Small Grant Scheme €380,000 (Global Environment Facility). **D.P.**

Keywords

Samoa; Noumea Simi; Thomas Opperer; Ofeira Salevao Manutai; EDF; ADB; water and sanitation; Debra Percival.

FROM CARPENTRY TO COUNSELLING

The EC's ongoing 9th EDF programme for NGOs and community-based groups covers furniture making to family counselling. The Samoa Association of Women Graduates (SAWG) is running a library in the children's ward at the National Hospital providing books and games for underprivileged and disadvantaged sick children. A carpentry workshop run by the Tanugamanono Methodist Youth Group hopes to receive future funding to roll out the award-winning-project country-wide and throughout the Pacific.

The NGO Fa'ataua-le-ola is addressing some of Samoa's social problems. Its Director, Ofeira Salevao Manutai, says that in the 1980s Samoa had the third highest rate of suicides in the world. Although Samoa has since dropped down the table, Ofeira Salevao Manutai believes that there are still some copycat suicides mimicking the movies. Other social issues being tackled by her NGO include marijuana use and domestic violence. Under an EC-financed project, the NGO is working in 74 out of Samoa's 400 plus villages to unearth social problems and offer counselling. She says that Sa-



Ofeira Salevao Manutai © Debra Percival

moans are "disadvantaged by traditional practices", with a rift between younger and older generation who have more "fixed beliefs". She explains her 'a-ha' method of working: waiting for communities to come forward with their problems and request counselling rather than imposing it on them.

Fa'afafine: Wanting to be a woman



Roger Stanley © 2009. © Debra Percival

Translated from Samoan, fa'afafine means "wanting to be a woman", says Roger To'oto'oali'i Stanley, principal policy analyst in the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development in Samoa and head of the Fa'afafine Association.

In most European or Western societies, the sight of a beautifully groomed man in a skirt wearing bright lipstick, delicate jewellery and with feminine mannerisms can cause heads to spin and fingers to point. In Samoa and the wider Polynesia, there's hardly a second glance.

There is a respect for the role of a fa'afafine in society. They are found in all walks of Samoan society, from government advisors to lawyers, and are particularly sought after for their skills in the caring industries such as hospitality, education and catering – not forgetting the exquisitely choreographed fa'afafine singing and dancing performances.

The association set up in 2006, whose patron is Prime Minister Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, is promoting the positive role fa'afafine play in Samoan society and countering any discrimination they might come

across. Roger Stanley – who has kept his male name (this is simply because people know him as 'Roger'), unlike other fa'afafine who often adopt English female names such as Caroline or Tracey, explains that the association was a natural follow on from fa'afafine alumni and sports groups. And fa'afafine charity events such as Miss Drag Queen, won by Roger Stanley in 1990 and 1994 were – and still are important dates on the Samoan cultural calendar, raising money for such as the elderly and disabled.

➤ "Local definition"

Roger Stanley says that the association is not focussed on sexual orientation (although later explaining that fa'afafine are attracted to straight men), nor gender identity, but the "role" they play in society. Definitions such as gay, lesbians, transsexual, transvestite and transgender do not describe what it means to be fa'afafine, says Roger Stanley. The association is hence working on a "local definition".

"Everyone is born with the same rights", says Roger Stanley, "the right to land and title (Ed: extremely important to Samoans). Roger Stanley says the association wants to boost the pride and esteem of every fa'afafine, overcome all forms of social and legal discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression

and in all areas of society; health, economy, education, employment and culture and traditions.

"We believe in nature, not nurture", says Roger Stanley, dispelling the explanation of fa'afafine in Samoa, given by some in the West, as families dressing and raising males as females in the event of a string of male siblings in a family.

Roger Stanley would like to set up a counselling centre for fa'afafine in Apia, capital of Samoa. He says that Scottish comedian Billy Connolly and his wife, Pamela Stephenson, have recently offered two scholarships for Samoan fa'afafine; one educational and another vocational, to assist those who have dropped out of school. The association has also set up the Fa'afafine Industry Variety Awards (FIVA) which including awards for the best employers of fa'afafine. **D.P.**

To find out more: www.samoafaafafine.org

Keywords

Fa'afafine; Samoa; Roger Stanley; gender; women; Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi; Debra Percival.



Blowhole Savai'i (left); Samoa's national flower, the Teuila or Red Ginger (centre); waterfalls are everywhere (right) 2009. © Debra Percival

A boost to the senses

Mountains, coral reefs, thundering waterfalls and blowholes, in a palette from the greenest green to the bluest blue; coconut trees chatter in the breeze and lava fields stretch silently to the water's edge. Samoa is delighting the senses of more and more visitors despite jittery economic times.

The government is confident that such natural assets can raise more than the current 28 per cent contribution of tourism to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through improved branding, more hotel accommodation and all-out promotion in New Zealand, Australia and other markets. Earnings from tourism rose from ST\$207.4M in 2005 to ST\$288.4M* by 2008, according to a recent study of the economy by Samoan-based consultancy, KVAConsult.

The bulk of those visiting are still friends and relatives of Samoans (40.5 per cent in 2007/2008), whereas 38.7 per cent were holidaymakers and 9.1 per cent on business. Of these visitors, 41.6 per cent came from New Zealand, 18.1 per cent from Australia, 19.3 per cent from American Samoa, 6.8 per cent from the USA, 1.2 per cent from the UK and 0.9 per cent from Germany.

“The people who we tend to get are older, do four islands (Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and the Cook Islands) instead of one island and tend to come for between four to six weeks”, says Misa Telefoni Retzlaff, Samoa's Deputy Prime Minister who is also Minister of Tourism. Distance (two long flights) and thus expense are obvious constraints to potential

‘The loveliest people in the world, moving and dancing like gods and goddesses, very quietly and mysteriously and utterly content,’

Rupert Broke, English poet

European visitors although Samoa is also upping marketing in the UK and USA. The filming of the ‘Survivor’ reality series on Upolu by the US TV network CBS is also placing the country on the world map.

A new 800-seat conference centre is being built by the Chinese, meaning that more hotels rooms are needed, explains Misa Telefoni, although attracting investment is not easy in the current economic climate. Upgrading of other hotels such as the Tusitala is also going ahead. A complication with hotel construction is the issue of land ownership in Samoa, 80 per cent of which is customary – that's to say belongs to communities. But examples of the leasing of land for future construction illustrates how this can be worked around, says Minister

Telefoni, citing as an example businessman Richard Chew, owner of the Warwick Group who has recently taken out a 99-year lease option to build on customary land in Vauvau, Upolu. Samoa is also keen to be a firm fixture on the cruise ship circuit with 20 boats due to berth this year according to Christina Leala-Gale, Manager for Planning and Development at the Samoa Tourism Authority (STA).

Whereas there is luxury ‘boutique’ accommodation such as the ‘Sinalei’ on Upolu and ‘La Lagoto’ in Savai'i, you can hire a beach fale on most islands for as little as \$ST80 (meals included) with a woven blind and mattress and roll straight from bed to sea. And you can be sure that what you pay goes straight back to local communities such as fale developments on Manono Island, which with just 1,000 residents is the third most populated of Samoa's five inhabited isles. **D.P.**

* 1 euro = 3.73 tala Bloomberg (22 June 2009).

Keywords

Misa Telefoni Retzlaff; Upolu; Savai'i; Manono; Warwick Group, Richard Chew; La Lagoto; Sinalei; Debra Percival.

Cherelle Jackson

The matai influence

The author, a Samoan journalist, explains how Samoa's all-important matai (Chief) system, the oldest known form of governance in Samoa, was forged by the original settlers and now works parallel to the democratic form of governance.

‘The selection of who is to become a matai is made by each family,’

The matai system is not defined by a physical structure, but by culture and history. In order to become a matai (Chief), one has to be related through blood or marriage to the incumbent. The selection of who is to become a matai is made by each family. Families who have a certain number of titles passed down to them by their ancestors go through a selection process which involves healthy debate on why a certain person should receive a title or on the basis of *O le ala i le pule o le tautua* (The way to leadership is through service.) The families usually determine the recipient of their Chiefly titles through a valuable contribution of this person to their family, society or to the country. For instance, someone who holds a good job and now has a status in Samoan society will most likely be bestowed a title as an acknowledgement of their services and as a way of welcoming them to the decision-making level in the family and the village.

One can either become a Chief, High Chief or an Orator; the prestige of each title is noted in the cultural hierarchy of Samoa. The Paramount chief is the highest rank-

ing and can only be passed down to sons or daughters of the original title holder. The current Government can only select the Head of State from holders of Paramount titles.

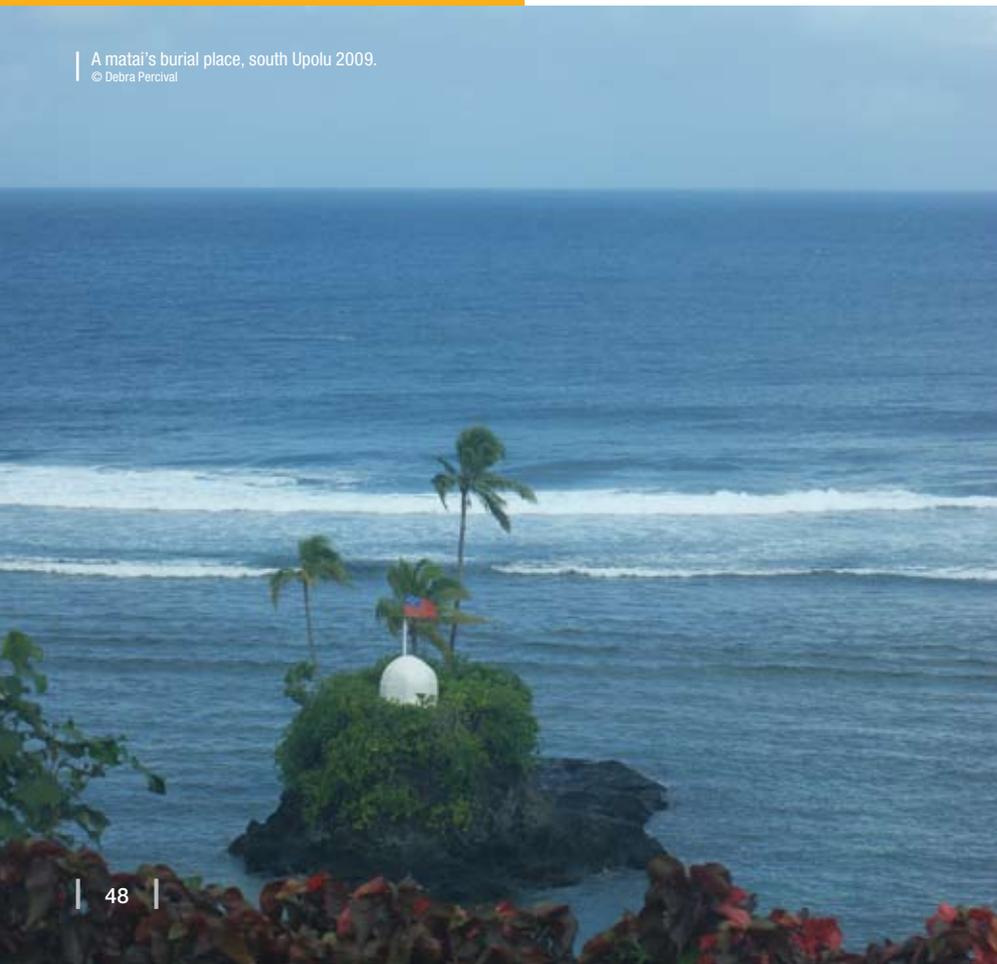
➤ Hand in hand

Currently the matai system and the democratic system work hand in hand. In order for a person to run for Parliament, one has to hold a matai title. This is with the exception of the two seats reserved for individual voters who are of mixed descent. The base of the Parliamentary system is the *Fono a Pulenuu*, or the Mayors' Meeting. Each month, the leaders of each district meet to discuss issues that are important to their districts. The Members of Parliament from these districts, like any other system, then present the needs of their people to Parliament. Thereon, the usual systems of democracy take over in the way policies and laws are then created, altered and implemented.

But once a law is passed by Parliament, and has to be implemented, the final say is with the matais of the village. Because it is only with their permission that any laws can be enacted in their villages. So although democratic governance works very well on a national level, when it comes to the village level, the matais or village council can easily overrule the decision and have it their way. This has resulted in occasional friction between modern and traditional Samoa.

The strength of each village council is dependent on the wise decisions of the matais who uphold the governance of a village. When someone commits a crime in the village they firstly face judgement or punishment by the village council before being brought to justice in the civil courts. The same applies when the Government wants to implement a project out in a village; the permission of the village council is usually sought first. The successful integration of the two forms of governance has been regularly used as a good example of maintaining traditional systems at the same time as using the new.

A matai's burial place, south Upolu 2009.
© Debra Percival



Keywords

Samoa; matai.

Herculaneum, Seat of the Augustali, 2009.
© Hegel Goutier

A report by Hegel Goutier

Art of excess. Naples puts on an act

Naples is more than a movie. Its contrasts of light and dark, burning brightness and reflections thrown from the pavements which have become worn over the centuries make us think of Greek masters clad in togas or the Napoleonic cavalry or minstrels and symbols of this fictional city: Stendhal, Luchino Visconti and his film crew on 'Matrimonio all'italiana' (Marriage Italian-style) or 'Teri, oggi, domani' (Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow) with Marcello Mastroianni, Sophia Loren and other glamorous actors. Naples is a film set in itself, where the tremors and sudden reversals of fortune, hopes and dreams and surprises, good and bad, are side-by-side and commonplace. As for tremors, ever-present Vesuvius is still very much active and tirelessly watches over the city and its surroundings. Naples boldly clings to its feet as if a courageous person combatting its own fear. It is closer to Vesuvius than the martyrs of the past, Pompeii and Herculaneum

Naples is born of the love of a mermaid, and its history is forever inscribed in fantasy. An

Adore it or hold it in contempt, Naples unflinchingly stirs the senses,

aesthetic of excesses, an allegory of disproportion. Adore it or hold it in contempt, Naples unflinchingly stirs the senses. Its first name is that of the beautiful mermaid who killed herself for having failed to seduce Ulysses and whose body, taken away by the sea, was given a pious sepulchre by the city's citizens.

➤ Christmas ornaments and Maradona...

Naples reveals layer upon layer of the magnificence and failures of past centuries and of the most diversified civilizations of Greece, Rome, the Etruscans, Byzantium, and the Aragonese of the Normans, the Bourbons and the French Enlightenment. From its most gleaming lustre and the tired, dusty beauty of buildings lost in the poor

neighbourhoods of the Sanità. Keep your eyes peeled to go beyond the superficial slovenliness of the city.

Naples is also kilometres of underground passages inhabited by mysteries, wonders and secrets. A surrealist marriage of the profane and the sacred: crèches, niches and alcoves are spread throughout the city's churches, cultural places, and are commercialised in luxury boutiques and in the shops that import their merchandise from China, all dedicated to past Saints or Saints yet to be. Ornamental Christmas figures are sculpted to their image: Pulcinella and San Gennaro, patron Saint of the City, ... Maradona. This may appear surreal, or slightly uncomfortable to the visitor, but is not to be derided. Part of the people's soul is there. And you feel it.

Dare to venture to burial sites. The Fontanelle cemetery: imagine a conceptual artist creating a piece in the form of a burial ground made up of thousands of skulls and limbs arranged in a litany of cubes, cones and parallels of every sort in a maze of alleyways, with altars and apocalyptic beams of

light. A skull has a starring role as beads of sweat shine on its forehead. A miracle. Just one more for a city that cultivates them, like the most beautiful nightmare. Very early on, Naples created the Comedia del Arte and adopted the opera.

► **Good taste, finesse and sensuality**

Either we immediately get lost in the maze of streets or we look at the city from the outside. From the islands... Why not approach the city from the most beautiful island in the bay of Naples, Prócida. Are we being objective? No. Passionate? Yes. An island where everything is coloured in pastel shades. The soft curves of the houses undulate under the filtered light of early mornings near the port, where the hill softly slopes towards the sea in impressionist hues. At first glance, they all seem small in comparison with the enormity of the castle, although the contrast does not jolt. Prócida is calm, even when it is flooded with tourists. It is as though visitors immediately become immersed in the peacefulness, enjoying the scents of lemons and orchids, tumbling down the hundreds of steps towards the inlets where fishermen perform their daily ritual and the small

‘A visit to Pompeii for its history is a must, yet Herculaneum is more beautiful,’

Chiaja beach or tiny Chiaiolella marina – immortalised in the film ‘il Postino’. Everywhere, small gardens are full of the aromas of the Northern Mediterranean and Africa in a subtle blend of citrus fruit and cacti of every shape and form.

The island of Ischia is another legendary daughter. It is where an irate Zeus imprisoned the Typhoon who can be heard roaring from time to time. It is a place of relaxation with its many thermal springs and beaches. The garden of la Mortella overhangs the western coast of the island and is ideal for idling. Nearby, there is the exceptional panorama from the La Colombaia belvedere, the former retreat of the film director Luchino Visconti.

Around Naples, a visit to Pompeii for its history is a must, yet Herculaneum is more beautiful. The site is peopled with patricians, the epitome of the elite. As it stands nearer

to the volcano, the lava petrified it instantly, meaning that even the clothes resisted the heat, and a large part of the mural frescoes have remained intact. Everything here testifies to a world of good taste, finesse and sensuality.

Another film, ‘la dolce vita’, makes us forget the poverty of the Campania: the Amalfi Coast. Its very name fires the imagination, before reality sets it ablaze. The path of beauty starts in Ravello, Greta Garbo and Richard Wagner’s favourite city, that boasts Europe’s greatest culture festival, magnificent gardens and the good taste that hangs over a town that clings to the mountain like a pure ruby, way above the other pearls that make up the necklace of the coast, Atrani, Positano, Sorrento and the carefree and seductive Amalfi. **H.G.**

Keywords

Etruscan; Aragon; Bourbon; Pompeii; Herculaneum; Campanie; Amalfi Coast; Stendhal; Visconti; Sanità; Maradona; Fontanella; Prócida; Chiaja; Chiaiolella; Mortella; Ravello; Atrani; Positano; Sorrente; Amalfi; Hegel Goutier.

The emphasis on migration should not disregard development contributions

Interview with Plenipotentiary Minister, **Elisabetta Belloni**, Director General of Italian Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy.



Elisabetta Belloni, 2009. © Hegel Goutier

What are Italy’s development policy priorities?

For the first time, Italy was able to draw up a strategy for the next three years developed in close cooperation with all Italian development cooperation actors. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was mindful of involving the regions, civil society and the private sector in order to have a sort of common strategy vis-à-vis developing countries and make it more effective.

The guidelines were based on our pulling together; to make the G8 Italian presidency more effective, and more in line with our

development priorities which will be reflected, we hope, in the outcome of the G8.

Sectors identified are health, education, food security and the environment with particular focus on water. Fifty per cent of our funding will go to sub-Saharan Africa.

In a period of international crisis when funds are being reduced across the entire donor community, we think there is a need for governments to increase resources for development. Africa is a priority for us and there are priority sectors. But there are some areas where a cross-cutting approach is extremely important. One of these is gender. We also

tried to rationalise the channels for distribution of funds; the multilateral sector and the bilateral sector. The UN system and the international financial institutions remain of utmost importance to us: we identified their specific role, and their potential added value to our contribution and also the Italian added value to their own programmes.

In some countries, the state is reluctant to share the ownership of their development policy with regions. Is this the case in Italy?

We are in favour of decentralised cooperation and in keeping with laws as to what regions can or cannot do in the field of international development cooperation, we are committed to encouraging all regions committed to development cooperation to work together with us. We have asked them to join in elaborating priorities and the drafting of our cooperation strategy guidelines.

How can you retain a strong development policy when there has been, roughly, a 55 per cent cut in your development budget this year?

Budgetary restrictions are certainly a serious problem for Italian cooperation. As I

said, our financial planning covers a three-year period. The cuts will also be reflected in next year's financial commitments and in the 2011 budget. This is a significant issue. We very much want public opinion in Italy to be aware of the fact that money for development cooperation is not only important in terms of cooperation policy but also in terms of our contribution to global stabilisation in the context of the entire globalisation momentum we are currently seeing. We should increasingly become aware of assisting economic growth, reducing poverty and reducing disease in other less advanced countries. Such efforts are also in the interests of our own long-term stability. I am not afraid to say, for instance, that the big emphasis that we put on the consequences of migration flows should not disregard the fact that real intervention has to start with a contribution to the development of the countries where these migrations originate. I very much hope that in the course of the year there will be adjustment to the big budget restrictions but I also have to draw attention to the duty we all have to assist our own financial domestic crisis which implies seeking additional resources for financing development, such as from the private sector. What's more, we should probably start

thinking in terms of a new development concept that puts the accent on trade and other mechanisms.

How far up the agenda is development for Italy's G8 presidency?

Italy has put a lot of energy into handling the G8 presidency. Development issues will be the big bulk of the dossier. Of course, I don't want to anticipate the results of the Summit – but what I can say is that Italy very much hopes to give development special momentum. The G8 should restate the commitment of the big donor countries and their responsibility to the development of developing countries. We will promote an 'all development actors' concept that goes beyond official development aid and intends to show that a real development process must encompass all contributions to developing countries; all actors and all instruments. **H.G.**

* The interview was carried out prior to the G8 meeting of Development Ministers, 12-13 June in Rome.

Keywords

Elisabetta Belloni; Italian Development Policy; G8; Migration; development aid; development actors; Hegel Goutier.

Headquarters of the Naples Chamber of Commerce, 2009. © Hegel Goutier

Italian NGOs on the darkness and light of Italy's development policy



© Hegel Goutier

The foundation that brings together most Italian development NGOs was created in 2000, and is present in most African countries. Sergio Marelli, President of the Italian operations and director of its main component, the FOCSIV (International Federation of Christian Volunteer Organisations), helped us uncover the dynamism of its member organisations and their relations with the Italian regional and federal authorities. His view is that Italian development policy is a combination of darkness and light.

163 organisations make up the Italian platform of development NGOs, and Africa is their main focus. The FOCSIV alone is an umbrella organisation for 64 associations with a total of 70,000 members and is present in 84 countries through 500 different projects. However, because the organisation prefers beneficiary-led projects, it only has 500 members in the field, stresses its director.

Explains Sergio Marelli: “The situations that have led to the best results are those where the participation of the beneficiaries is key, especially in areas where international institutions recognise that this participation is the element that should get the most support. I have left the old concept of technical assistance behind me, since southern countries have all the necessary capacity and training required for their development. We must encourage a form of support that aims to eradicate the major causes of injustice that are the root of the many of problems.”

The situation of the Italian government is one of darkness and light. “Let us be positive and start with the light. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Franco Frattini, accepted our request for regular meetings with NGOs to discuss the various points on his ministry’s agenda that are important to us. For example, we have just concluded a consultation on the mid-term review of the OECD. We had a meeting on the triennial programming of the Italian development cooperation. We have regular discussions with the minister, and enjoyed very good relations with the Council of Ministers in preparing Italy’s presidency of the G8.

Darkness emerges from the fact that the government has decided to slice its development aid budget by 56 per cent in this year’s national budget. This 56 per cent cut on the 2008 allocation is equivalent to 0.2 per cent of Italy’s Gross National Product (GNP). Our minister of finance remains deaf to our pleas. We have asked to meet her

on several occasions using different means, including an open letter in the country’s major economic newspapers. We even asked Archbishop Desmond Tutu to write to her... to no avail.”

Italian NGOs also fear that the decentralisation of development cooperation policy currently launched in Italy could lead to a ‘Balkanisation’ of the process, with a total of 26 regional ministries, “each carrying out their own small development cooperation” instead of working together as a network. **H.G.**

Keywords

Hegel Goutier; NGOs; Italy, Cooperation; development policy; Sergio Marelli; FOCSIV.

Burden of clandestine immigration weighs on Naples and Campania

Although one of the least prosperous areas of the country, Campania faces the lion's share of the burden of clandestine immigration into Italy – a conclusion reached by NGOs, like Caritas, based in the area. These NGOs condemn the fact that ministries in charge of social security seem to turn a blind eye to clandestine immigrants, while the authorities in charge of security are all too aware of their existence.

Italy's long history of emigration has become one of immigration. Today, around four million immigrants from some 194 different nations, live legally in the country. This fact sets them apart from other countries, such as France, the United Kingdom and Germany, who were confronted with more homogenous waves of immigrants, explains Mr Giancamillo Trani, head of Naples' Caritas immigrant assistance service. Immigrants make up a total of six percent of the entire Italian population in the south of the country, he tells us. In Campania, there are around 120,000 legal immigrants, putting it in seventh place in the national immigration statistics by region. The province of Naples alone is home to 40,000 immigrants.

Caritas claims that legal immigrants live and work in Italy without any real problems. The big problems lie with people without papers, most of whom reside in southern Italy. "These people do not [legally] exist and are not accounted for by the authorities, so policies for their support and social integration are left entirely to the care of volunteers", criticises Mr Trani.

In Castel Vortuno, in the Province of Caserta, 18,000 local citizens live alongside a group of 11,000 immigrants, most of whom have come from Nigeria and Ghana. There is no integration between immigrants and local Italians and, "this leads to social unease that sometimes makes the front page headlines which talk of murder, drugs or prostitution. And

then there are the conflicts between Nigerians and Ghanaians", laments Trani of Caritas.

Some ministries and institutions react as if these people do not exist, whereas for those in charge of security, immigrants act as a scarecrow, whipping up fear: "it is a paradox and one of the many contradictions of the Italian system. The Ministry of the Interior and the police know that there are many irregular immigrants here, so why do Social Security, Health or Education not know anything about them?", he asks... **H.G.**

Keywords

Hegel Goutier; NGOs; Italy; Cooperation; development policy; Sergio Marelli; FOCSIV.

Don Gaetano Romano, Episcopal Vicar of the Archdiocese of Naples, Director of Caritas

"Above all else the role of Caritas is to support people in a brotherly manner so we approach immigrants with our hearts. Our approach is warm and the opposite of that of some European governments who have little warmth for immigrants, are not sensitive to their problems and apply rules and regulations that have an aura of distance rather than welcome. In Caritas we act on another level. We work as Christians and as believers, which encourages us to practice the first divine commandment: respecting and welcoming other people.

I feel that countries are confused in tackling the immigration issue. On the one hand, some feel that Europe will inevitably

become a multi-ethnic society. On the other, some states forcefully send immigrants back across the Mediterranean. At the moment, the trend is to draw up agreements with the immigrants' countries of origin, although it would seem that such arrangements are very flexible and rarely fully enforced. What can be said? We need to show common sense. That 'other', we speak of is a person. You can talk of humanitarian rights, of a right to welcome, but you must start off with the person and always respect the person." **H.G.**

Keywords

Naples; Migrations; Italy; Don Gaetano Romano; Caritas; Hegel Goutier.



"Don Romano. The first commandment: respecting and welcoming other people", 2009. © Hegel Goutier

Determined to fight the recession... and a drab image

*It isn't easy to imagine the magnificence of the gilding work and panelling of Naples' Palazzio della Borsa that lies behind the elegant Venetian Liberty façade of the prestigious headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce. Indeed, it could easily be an allegory of the economy of the city and the Campania Region as a whole as recalled by its president, **Gaetano Cola**: great achievements – including significant progress in the aeronautics industry – under a seemingly drab, uninteresting exterior.*

The economic fabric of the Campania Region is made up of more than half a million enterprises, half of them in Naples. All these companies – most of which are small and one-man businesses – are affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce, a venerable institution created by Joseph Bonaparte, King of Naples, in 1808. However, notes Gaetano Cola, “our assets reside in the quality, typical character and wide range of our industries, from agro-food to crafts, to textiles and clothing, tourism, logistics and aeronautics”. The area is

also crowned with several types of activities in textiles, leatherwork and food. Also noteworthy is the activity in the port, with exports of over €9.2bn in 2008, 4.8 of which from Naples. Today, the Campania region's GDP represents 7% of the whole of Italy.

> Visible results

The area's enterprises are facing up to the current international crisis. These small companies, whose running costs are around 20% of the turnover, were not on an equal

footing with the national average and needed help to penetrate foreign markets. Help came from the region and export support from the Chamber of Commerce. The results speak for themselves. For example, the region's companies have now sold good worth over €1.5M to the Spanish retailer Corte Inglés.

Yet, Campania's dynamism in sectors related to research and innovation, particularly environmental and aeronautical, is relatively unknown abroad. An environmental technological centre will soon see the light of day in Bagnoli and will create over a thousand new jobs.

> Brand images

“Despite all this activity” Gaetano Cola laments, “the city and the region still have a bad image in the international press that seems to focus solely on overflowing garbage tips, even though that issue has now been resolved. Furthermore, the government is putting great effort into dealing with the Camorra”. Construction in Naples, including the underground system, have proved very unpleasant for visitors. However, they will soon be able to better appreciate the marvels of the city. In the meantime, the Chamber of Commerce invests with a view to showing an image of Naples that is closer to the reality of a city of rare crafts and industrial creativity, beauty and nature, cultural riches and human warmth. **H.G.**

Gaetano Cola, president of the Naples Chamber of commerce, 2009. © Hegel Goutier

Keywords

Hegel Goutier; Chamber of Commerce; Naples; Gaetano Cola; Campania; tourism; aeronautics; port activities.



Naples – European vanguard city: arms stretched out to Africa



© Hegel Goutier

‘We would be extremely proud to take a lead in development aid to Africa,’

Rosa Iervolino Russo, Mayor of Naples since 2001, leads the centre-left majority. This Italian figurehead is not only a former candidate for the presidency, but was also at the head of several key ministries. After having been a leading figure of the left wing of Christian Democracy (Democrazia Cristiana), she was one of the founders of the Italian People’s Party (Partito Popolare Italiano).

› Achievements

These past seven to eight years have been particularly trying. The country lacks funds. In Naples, this shortage partly results from the difficult relations between our centre-left administration and the centre-right government.

Our greatest achievement is without doubt our underground, which was praised by Danita Hubner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, as the greatest public works project in Europe today. The city of Naples nestles between the hills and the sea, and its narrow streets defended the city in the past against numerous invasions. These factors all contributed to the urgent need for this infrastructure.

We also focused on the re-development of two large industrial areas around Naples. To the west, in Bagnoli, where the shutdown of the steel-manufacturing plant Italsider Bagnoli had left more than ten thousand workers without jobs, we steered the area towards tourism, the hospitality trade and port navigation, particularly now that the Naples harbour is completely saturated with traffic.

We have already created a tourist harbour in the western area, where we will transfer the Naples aquarium, making it even more beautiful than Genoa’s, which has an international reputation. We will also transfer the

national railway museum (Museo Nazionale Ferroviario) to the area.

› Difficulties and assets

Unemployment is our greatest worry. The birth rate is relatively high and the dismantling of the old industrial network does not allow us to easily absorb our young people into the job market. Equally, new tourist and hospitality structures, currently in their development phase, are not ready to fully welcome them either.

One of our greatest assets is the port of Naples. About fifteen years ago, it was almost completely dead. We are now redeveloping the area of the Darsena di Levante, thanks to very intense trade exchanges with China. This demonstrates that we are reacting as best we can to attract foreign investments in the current global crisis.

> The region's strong points

The first asset is without doubt the landscape. Far be it our intention to offend anyone, but we have the most beautiful islands in the world. Our second asset is nature in general. Look at the fascinating area around Irpinia in the Avelino Province. Naples was born Greek, became Roman, and was then under the rule of Aragon, Svera, and Anjou. We have magnificent castles, such as Caserta or Capodimonte, which boasts an art gallery rivalling the Louvre or Leningrad museums. But our main asset is the people, who are both welcoming and cordial, despite the fact that Naples is often perceived as a 'Wild West city'. Our young people have grasped the fact that they needed to be prepared to be competitive in the work universe. And they are ready.

‘But our main asset is the people, who are both welcoming and cordial, despite the fact that Naples is often perceived as a ‘Wild West city’;

> Naples and Africa

During the excavation works for the underground, we found incredible riches, amongst which a Greek-Roman harbour complete with Phoenician remains from Northern Africa, Maghreb, and Crete, testifying of the intense artistic, cultural and commercial relations that Naples already enjoyed with Africa in those days. Today, this sort of collaboration lives on, and we would be extremely proud to take a lead in development aid to Africa. But not in a colonialist manner: we adamantly stand against colonialism and promote the free determination of African people.

The Naples Chamber of Commerce organises sessions for the representatives of African Chambers of Commerce invited in Naples. They learn about our specialisations and products, know our manufacturers and, when they feel it appropriate, invite them to come to Africa to work together. I would like to stress that Naples has the oldest western university and is the only city where many Italians also speak Arabic. This exchange must live on in Naples, this city that is inextricably linked to Europe but that is also its vanguard whose arms are opened to Africa.

H.G.

For more information: www.comune.napoli.it

Keywords

Hegel Goutier; Rosa Russo Iervolino; Naples; Campania; Capodimonte; Darsena di Levante, Bagnoli.

In Italy, AFRO breaks its silence on Africa

Between plummeting official development aid and Berlusconi's government obsessed by the migration* 'threat' in Italy, Africa is no winner. This fact is even more blatant for the Italian media who are used to maintaining a polite silence over African issues**. If journalists look at the African news once in a blue moon, they systematically convey a biased image of the continent to their audiences. Last June, to break the silence surrounding Africa, the Unidea Foundation launched an editorial project, AFRO, promoting Africa to the Italian medias through an ad hoc information bulletin managed by the Agenzia Giornalistica Italia (AgiAfro), and to advocate the awareness of Italian and European decision-makers through an English portal (financed by Italian magazine Vita Non Profit Magazine) that serves



AFRO ONLINE
The Voice of Africa

as a (free) platform for medias created – for the most part – by the African civil society. Until now, Afronline relies on such prestigious partners as Pambazuka, Syfia Info, the PANOS Institute West Africa, the Fondation Hirondelle and other 'non-profit' editorial experiments such as A24, News From Africa or the South African Civil Society Information Service (Sacsis). "I don't think that the outlook of the civil African society on the realities of the continent or the rest of the world has sufficiently been taken into consideration", underlines

Riccardo Bonacina, President of AFRO Committee. "Our portal would somewhat aim to fill this gap." **J.M.**

* On 2 July 2009, the Italian parliament adopted a controversial law toughening its arsenal against clandestine immigration and authorising the organisation of unarmed citizen patrols to reinforce security on the streets.

** This silence had been exceptionally broken by the Italian daily newspapers, 'Repubblica' and 'La Stampa', which published special editions on Africa in 2209.

For more information: www.afronline.org

Adoption of skeletons and other phantasmogoria



Duomo of Ravello, 2009. © Hegel Goutier |

We arrive in Naples carrying all the unfortunate prejudices of a sulphurous city. It is dizzy-making: so much beauty, so much neglect, such perfection, it's a place of extremes...

Your initial instinct would be to flee the Sanità, the poor area of town, but we cannot help but stay and marvel at the neighbourhood. And we have a guide. He's an artist from the Sanità, painter, ceramist and art conveyor Diego Loffredo, who sheds light on everything. The artist creates traditional ceramics harking back to the Greek past of Naples, that are valued by the most prestigious art galleries. But he holds his modern ceramics and paintings closer to his heart.

Like in most other parts of the city, cemeteries are buried underground in the natural

cavities of the rock or are interred within the local stone, which is both soft and resistant. Remains from the 17th century victims of the plague lie alongside 18th century corpses (more than forty thousand in total) that were descended from the city's many churches. Neapolitans often adopt one of these souls that haunt purgatory, thus creating a close link to them, one made of fantasy and of hoping for favours from the dead, in return for their prayers for the souls of the dead.

What else is there to see in Naples? Everything, starting with the heart of the historical centre, the Piazza Bellini, the

Church of New Christ and the square (Piazza del Gesù Nuovo), the cathedral (Il Duomo) with the receptacle of San Gennaro's blood that becomes liquid twice a year to the jubilation of the Neapolitans. Or provokes misery if this miracle does not take place. The Lungomare, with its underground passages criss-crossing each other, the gorgeous theatres like the one where Totó reigned, an old film by the latter, a place to sit and listen to a cult song like *Malafemina*, that every Neapolitan loves to this day. And of course, the archaeological museum is a must, even for those who usually shun such exhibits. This one enlivens



Naples, La Sanità. Cemetery of Fontanelle, 2009. © Hegel Goutier



Daniele Loffredo, artist of ceramic painting (right), 2009. © Hegel Goutier



the senses and more so, its 'secret cabinets', inaccessible to children, with their inexhaustible collections of erotic works from Pompeii and Herculaneum. What is the best time to visit? Naples changes its make-up

every hour, taking on a new beauty. But at night, it is at its best; the tiny imperfections become invisible and are replaced by magical lights. **H.G.**

Keywords

Hegel Goutier; Naples; Campanie; Italy; Maradona; Sanità; Diego Loffredo.



Daniele Furia, creator of pasta flavours, 2009. © Hegel Goutier

A HARMONY OF PASTA FLAVOURS

Daniele Furia is a designer who honours Naples' bubbling creativity. With his team, he has created a whole new variety of pasta flavours based on the lemon.

"The tradition goes back to my grandmother, who started with Limoncello. We reused the Neapolitan traditions of Limoncello here in Naples. First we created new pastries using lemon cream. Using lemon juice, we invented new products, including

a lemon chocolate called 'choconcello'. We were just four students in the beginning. We put our faith in quality and made the choice not to produce in some great big warehouse but in Naples' historic centre. Our clients understand what we are creating, enjoy and buy our products."

CAMORRA AND LITTER. THE PARADOX OF CLICHÉS

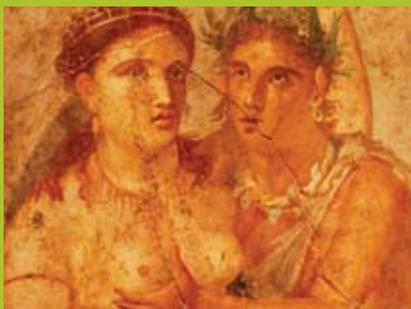
Yes, there is the Camorra. And yes, sometimes, litter does sometimes overflow the pavements. Prior to the European elections, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, said that Rome, Naples and Palermo were as dirty as African cities. The recent litter crisis – when collections were suspended – was a protest which has now come to an end. Although during the day, wrapping papers and other rubbish do sometimes pile up

near street stalls, it is collected at the end of the day. The beauty of the city is untouched.

The Camorra is undeniably immoral but facilitates – in its own interest of course – the preservation of skilled craftsmanship in the areas of haute couture and fine leather craft, as explained by Vittorio Savani in his famous book: Gomorrha. The Camorra is linked to the history of the poor

of the region who often stood by them in their turf wars. Today, many of its leaders live alongside the poorest in areas like the Sanità. Another paradox. How can we discuss the Camorra without vindicating crime? This question is frequently posed by many Neapolitan commentators, intellectuals in particular.

A MUST READ ...



Naples Museum of Archaeology. Donna e figura satiresca Pompei. © Hegel Goutier

Many authors have captured the various facets, complexities and original aspects of Naples. Erri de Luca, however, helps his readers enter and be transported by the soul of the city. In his latest work, 'Il giorno prima della felicità' (the day before happiness) which is yet to be translated into other languages, Erri de Luca explores his city delicately, as if a deep-sea diver whose tools were a feather and paintbrush, so that each layer is felt, rather than perceived. The author looks through his childhood eyes, which are clouded over with a melancholy that filters content and form. If

you were to read only one book in de Luca's work, choose 'Montedidio'*. Although not his best book, it is the most revealing and filled with such sentiment. It recounts the story of two young adolescents in the chaotic final years of Second World War Naples. In an attempt to avoid death and deprivation, the two youngsters tussle with their weaknesses, their thirst for life and a puzzling sentiment... love perhaps?

* Same title in French than in Italian. Montedidio, Gallimard, Paris, Prix Femina étranger 2002.

Sandra Federici

The 53rd Venice biennale (from 7 June to 22 November) has many novelties, amongst these a first pavilion from Palestine, the first pavilion dedicated to Internet and a total of 77 national pavilions, the largest number in its history.



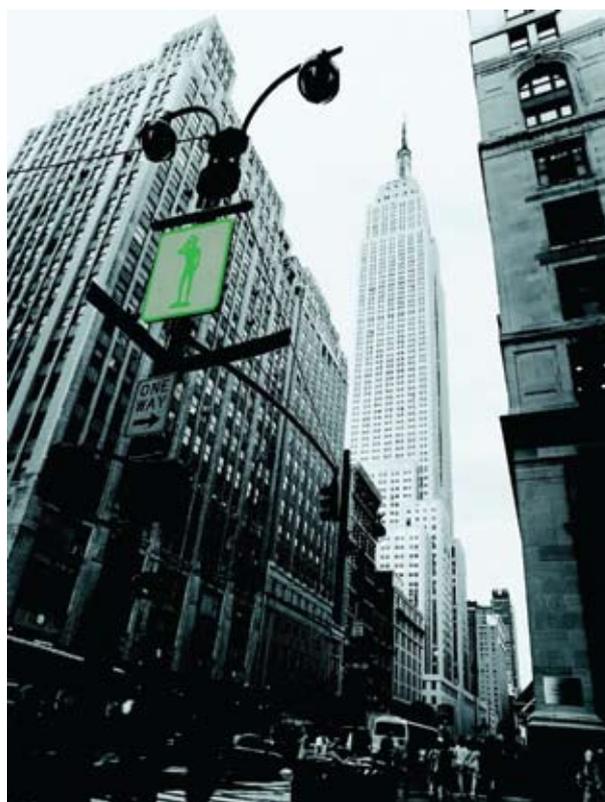
Paolo W. Tamburella, *Djahazi*. Venice Biennale 2009, *Making Worlds*

It's clear: Africa's participation isn't a new event and, as we have already said, there is no longer the need to fight the invisibility of African art in the contemporary scene through specific 'African' participation in biennials as the First African pavilion in 2007 (see 'The Courier' no. 2, sept. - oct. 2007). In fact, in the large exhibition space at the Biennale 2009, Africans - as well as, we might add, artists from the Caribbean and the Pacific, are chosen not because of their nationality but their value, languages or messages.

In the beautiful spaces of the Arsenal, Birnbaum placed two large works by **Moshekwa Langa** from South Africa and **Pascale Marthine Tayou** from Cameroon. Langa presents *Temporal distance* (with a criminal intent), you will find us in the best place a city, made with an assortment of discarded objects (toys, kitsch souvenirs, thread reels): a cartography of the journey and displacement which are typical of this artist's production.

Tayou's large multimedia installation, *Human being* (2007-2009), evokes the architecture of an African village, with video representations of life and work, creating links between apparently different forms

and histories, in the North and South of the world. The work is a fragmented reportage of local contexts connected through a glo-



Yvette Berger Owanto, *Where are we going? NYC*, Colour print on canvas, 2009. Venice Biennale 2009, *Making Worlds*

ACP art at the Venice biennale 2009



Moshekwa Langa, *Stage*, Installation, mixed media, dimensions variable, 1997- 2009. Venice Biennale 2009, *Making Worlds*

ACP art at the Venice biennale 2009



Pascale Marthine Tayou, *Human Being*, Mixed media, dimensions variable, 2007. Venice Biennale 2009, *Making Worlds*. Photo by Ela Bialkowska. Courtesy of Galleria Continua, San Gimignano / Beijing / Le Moulin

bal network, which we cannot perceive as a whole: to understand it, we have to stop and observe, video by video, installation by installation, dedicating it some time.

Leaving this confusion, we are struck by the emptiness and clean aspect of the work of **Richard Wentworth** (Samoa), who has minimally placed black walking sticks along the white wall.

The interesting work of **Anawana Haloba** (Zambia), *The Greater G8 Advertising Market Stand* (2007-2009), is an interactive installation that looks like a simple stand advertising products from the South but which, when studied closer, is an ironic criticism of the free market and the logic of aid.

Noteworthy is the first entry by the **Republic of Gabon**, which for its pavilion chose Owanto, who was born in Paris, of a French father and a Gabonese mother; she spent her early years in Gabon, and has now lived in Europe for most of her life. Gabon's strategy indicates that cultural contamination might be the key to access to a better knowledge of its history, its tradition and its visual language.

At the Latin American pavilion one is amazed by the strange beings of the artist **Raquel Paiewonsky** (Dominican Republic): improbable bodies built with tights, polished nails, and condoms. **Georges Adéagbo** from Benin continues to give his strong political and economic messages through ironic installations of objects from African, American and Italian culture and media.

It is the first time in Venice for the **Comoros Islands**, with the project *Djahazi*, conceived by the Italian artist Paolo W. Tamburella. The name of the project comes from the traditional Comoros boat, which, following the modernization of the port in 2006, were prohibited and abandoned. Tamburella has restored a *Djahazi*, with the goal of shipping it to Venice. Supported by the local population, the project bears witness to a piece of the historical identity of Comoros.

Keywords

53rd International Art Exhibition; Venice; Africa art; ACP art; Moshekwa Langa; Pascale Marthine Tayou; Richard Wentworth; Anawana Haloba; Raquel Paiewonsky; Georges Adéagbo.

Music Crossroads

Forty music festivals in five Southern African countries, attended by 100,000 spectators. This is the result of the work carried out by Music Crossroads International in 2008.

Music Crossroads International is a programme for youth empowerment through music, initiated in 1996 by Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI). It presently encompasses Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“We started in ‘96 in Zimbabwe”, says the director Dag Franzen, a violinist and music teacher who for many years has been active in cooperation for development, “then we carried on in Mozambique, and the other countries. We involve young people between the ages of 15 and 25, and we’re open towards traditional and contemporary/urban music. We started by intervening with a standard programme shaped around local needs: a music festival, plus 2 days of workshops, social interaction activities and a final competition. Then it changed slightly, we learnt from experience. Since our programme began 13 years ago it has grown to reach over 45.000 musicians”.

How do you manage to get so many musicians involved?

“Our principal aim is to create sustainable musical structures in the target countries. We have these membership-based NGOs in the five nations, and we meet a lot amongst ourselves to exchange good practices. We also do other activities: we give training in promotion, marketing, communication; we assist in the recording sessions, we organise concerts, and we go to all the provinces in the countries. For us culture and education are tools for social growth: music creates self-esteem, self-awareness and social inclusion.

We also organise Songs4life, providing training by professional musicians in song writing and encouraging musicians to write about their realities; to use their talents in order to make an impact on listeners. A CD compilation is produced annually, which features

the best songs from these workshops and is promoted through radio and TV.

Songs that emerge from these workshops often address important issues such as life and death, sickness and health, violence and peace, education, and poverty, and the best are selected for studio recordings offering musicians the opportunity to work in a professional studio setting.”

Why have you focused on Southern Africa?

“We chose austral and Anglophone Africa because there was almost nothing there to promote artists, whereas Western Africa is very present in the world music field.

For example in Tanzania, where there are very few institutions dedicated to the arts, MC Tanzania provides quality training and performances by working with partner organizations in the fields of music training and management, HIV/AIDS and self empowerment. Music Crossroads was introduced to Tanzania in 1999. Since then it has grown from having four local festivals to nine festivals across the entire country.”

It’s worth visiting the website www.music-crossroads.net: there you can find videos, photos, artists’ biographies, and, most of all, listen to lots of music. **S.F.**

Images from Music Crossroads International 2008. Courtesy of Jeunesses Musicales International

Keywords

Music Crossroads International; Africa; music festivals; Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI); Dag Franzen; young people; social growth; Songs4life; Sandra Federici.



Remember Nono, his name will soon be on everyone's lips...

With 'Sources', his very first creation that was featured in last June's Danse Balsa Marni festival, 20-years old Haitian choreographer and dancer Nono (real name Raynold Battesti) most certainly moved the audience at the Brussels Marni Theatre, both with his choreographic style and his talent as a dancer.

'Sources' tells of loss and reunion, of a brother and a sister torn apart in their childhood and forced to create a life in another family, in a distant land. This autobiographic choreography is devoid of pathos and manages to maintain a sensitive modesty.

Two dancers play around each other. His (Nono) and Her (Géraldine Battesti) meeting point teeters on the frontier between reality and the looking glass, the stage and the giant screen. He moves on stage as she

progresses behind the mirror – the film screen. But the frontier is blurred. In this *pas de deux*, he goes through the mirror with great fluidity. She stays behind. She is the sister, the neglected mother, the new mother, both of them always with some distance between them, if only a shadow. But both their bodies and hearts dance on the same level. A *pas de deux* also takes place between the two main players and Didier Leroy's accordion. This accordion and its musician, forms a third character that is both a nostalgia for the past, but equally clings to them like a soul, giving Sources much of its spellbinding and magical atmosphere.

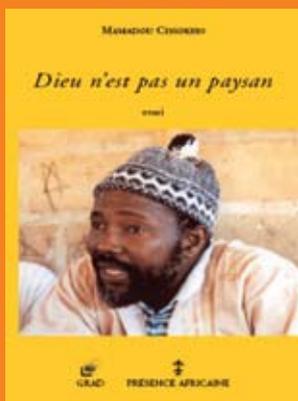
Although it is born out of the genre of rap and hip-hop, Nono's show gives the overall impression of a new classicism. The syncopation becomes fluid and soft. And to explain this both sad and beautiful tale, Nono borrows from the vocabulary of dreams with

a constant passage through a real and a virtual looking-glass. You could say that romanticism, the unspoken thoughts, the illusion and the insinuation are all reminiscent of something similar to Woody Allen's Rose of Cairo. So, remember Nono's name, we assume we will hear it again... **H.G.**

Théâtre Marni, Brussels. Director: Joëlle Keppenne
www.theatremarni.com



Nono (right) and Didier Leroy (left). Choreography "Sources" by Nono at Marni Theater. © Hegel Gautier



Mamadou CISSOKHO. *Dieu n'est pas un paysan* (God is not a peasant) March 2009, Présence Africaine, Grad, 296 p.

'God is not a peasant'

"The world's future lies in agriculture and the future of agriculture is peasant agriculture. Because the latter is more human, it does not produce a lot of CO² and is a breeding ground for job creation." After working in the field in West Africa for more than thirty years, Mamadou Cissokho is convinced of this, and tells us about it in a book/testimony.

The author writes: "Rich in resources and rich for our families, West Africa is today rich with the growing vitality of peasant organizations. National platforms uniting stockbreeders, fishermen, and farmers have been in place since the late 1990s. Beyond the borders erected by colonisation, we are increasingly conscious that we belong to a community, The Economic Community

of West African States (ECOWAS). Every day, the organisation is more and more animated by key players from civil society, amongst which the Network of Peasant Organizations and Producers in West Africa (ROPPA) that we, the farmers from 10 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo) founded in 2000 in Cotonou before extending it to Ghana and Sierra Leone."

The book recalls the story of this construction. Mamadou Cissokho deems that the family nature of farms is a priority and

recalls that, on the contrary, the consequence of the current crisis is the crisis of multinational companies, a system that has failed for agriculture. "And the new combat in the Western world is a return to a more human agriculture that respects the environment, a return to our peasant agriculture that had been called retrograde." **M.M.B.**

Keywords

Mamadou Cissokho; the network of Peasant organizations and Producers in West Africa (ROPPA); agriculture; West Africa; Marie-Martine Buckens.

Anna and Bazil and the Sacred Mask

‘The artists hand-created over 3,000 drawings from scratch, for the animation of the story’s protagonists.’



Drawing from “Ana and Bazil and the Sacred Mask”. Courtesy of Africa Art Toons

Elisabetta Degli Esposti Merli

Anna and Bazil are two children growing up in the city. They are the children of the new society of Benin – a society that is in danger of forgetting where it came from, as it is too taken up with the need to know where it is going. The two heroes of the story, on holiday in Kétou, a small Yoruba town located in the Plateau Department of Benin, find themselves in a mysterious situation: the thrill of a mask that has disappeared, the adventure across an unknown country, searching for the lost mask and finally the discovery of the spiritual, ancestral and enigmatic world of the masks.

This is the beginning of the fascinating plot of the first short animated film 100 per cent made in Benin, entitled ‘Anna and Bazil and the Sacred Mask’.

‘The first episode’ entitled Anna and Bazil and the magic book was created in 2007, directed by Paul Lhoir, a Belgian development worker who works in the field of cultural international cooperation for the Centre de réalisation du matériel de communication (CRMC). On seeing the enthusiasm that resulted from this first experiment, several of the contributing comic strip artists decided to set up an association

(‘Afrique Art Toons’) and to participate in a three-year training course. Through this work the association participated in the PSICD’s call for bids* and was awarded funding to carry out the second episode, entitled ‘Anna and Bazil and the Sacred Mask’.

The artists, who include Jo Palmer, Hector Sonon, Hervé Alladaye and many more, hand-created over 3,000 drawings from scratch, for the animation of the story’s protagonists.

In the second episode, Anna and Bazil witness a great drought that hits Ketou after the disappearance of a Guéléde mask, which was stolen and sold to a tourist. They decide to go in search of the mask, travelling to many cities, including Abomey, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Dahomey and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Natitingou in the North of the country.

We interviewed the cartoonist Hector Sonon, one of the artists who worked on the film, as well as being the winner of the fourth edition of the ‘Human Rights’ section of the ‘Africa e Mediterraneo Prize for the Best Unpublished African Comic Strip Artist’ (www.africacomics.it).

Sonon explained to us that the importance of the work of ‘African Art Toons’ lies not only in the artistic aspect of the film, but also in the value that this type of creation can bring to the whole society of Benin. Anna and Bazil will be inserted into the programming of both public and private TV stations. Thanks to its transmission on TV, it will be possible to bring young people’s attention to their country’s specific cultural heritage.

The animated film itself is engaging; if it is then transmitted on TV, a sure media-communicative result will be guaranteed. Sonon complains about the fact that often young people are unaware of much of the history, tradition and geography of their own country.

Anna and Bazil will provide something to fill this gap. Culture will again achieve results, in spite of the scepticism of many people.

* See The ACP-EU Courier no.8, October-November 2008.

Keywords

Anna and Bazil; Benin; Paul Lhoir; Hector Sonon; comics; Hervé Alladaye; PSICD.

Words from Readers

Planète Jeunes is the best educational magazine on the continent from one perspective. However, it should get closer to Africa's underprivileged young people, in particular in the poor countries. By taking this approach, it will establish an incredible reputation.

I wish *Planète Jeunes* every success.

N'Goran Abaukan Bathy (Burkina Faso)

Dear Sirs,

I would like to congratulate you on the relevance of your articles on the issue of sustainable development and the scarcity of natural resources. Once again, the *Courier* is taking the initiative by leading the debate in the build-up to the Copenhagen Summit. I appeal once again to the African leaders, because I believe it is extremely important that the ACP countries meet and discuss the drawing up of a negotiation agenda.

Babacar Ndione (Senegal)

We are interested in your point of view and your reactions to the articles. So do tell us what you think.

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22 – 24 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

Agenda

September-November 2009



September 2009

- 31/08 **World Climate Conference**
04/09 Geneva, Switzerland
For more information and registration visit: <http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/>
- 13-15 **10th EDF Programming – Regional Seminar for East Africa**, Lusaka, Zambia
<http://architectafrica.com/AFRICAN-PERSPECTIVES-2009>
- 28-29 **3rd EU-Africa Business Forum on Trade and Regional Integration, Entrepreneurship**
Nairobi, Kenya
- 29/09 **17th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and Inter-Sessional Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly**
01/10 Brussels, Belgium

October 2009

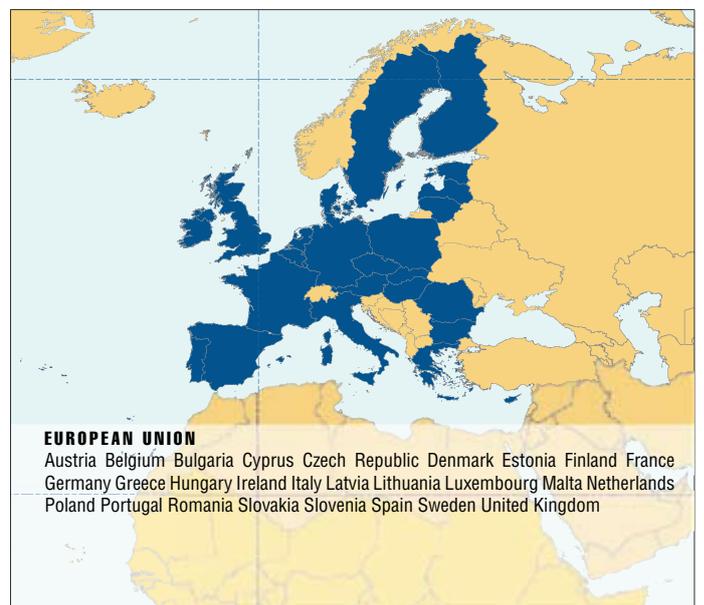
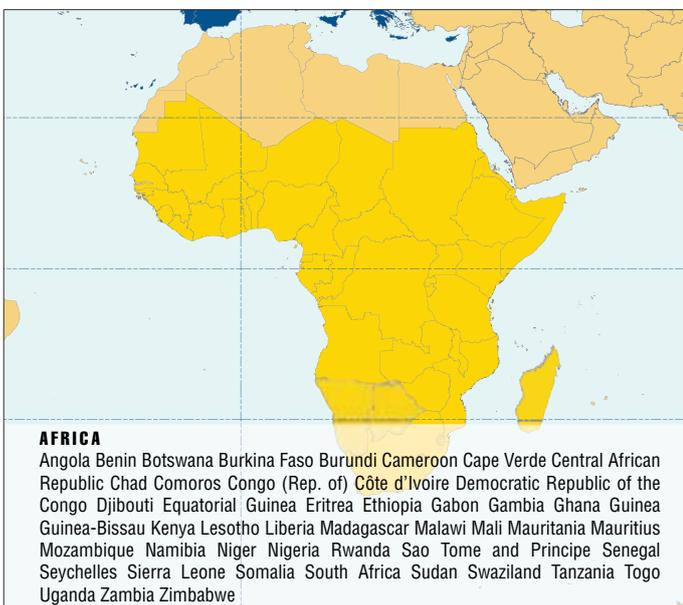
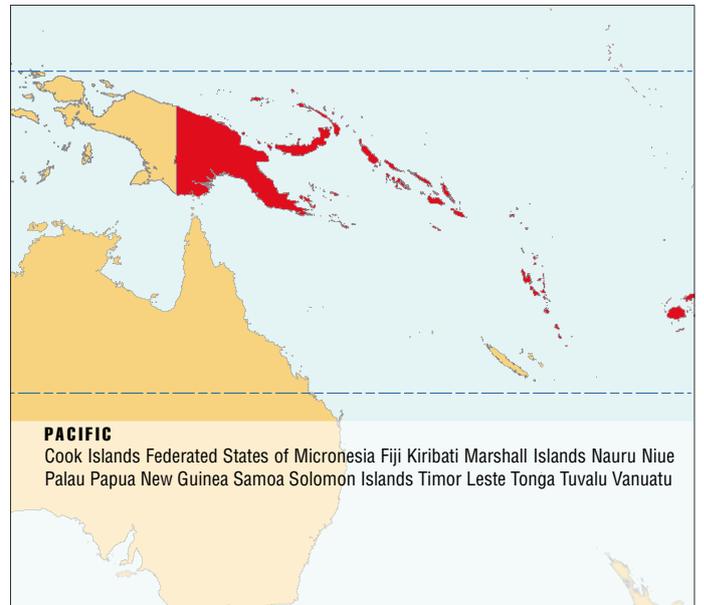
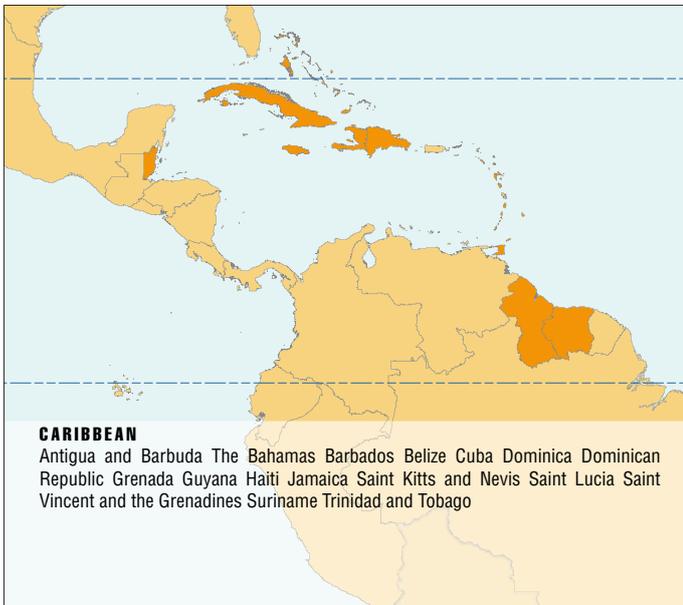
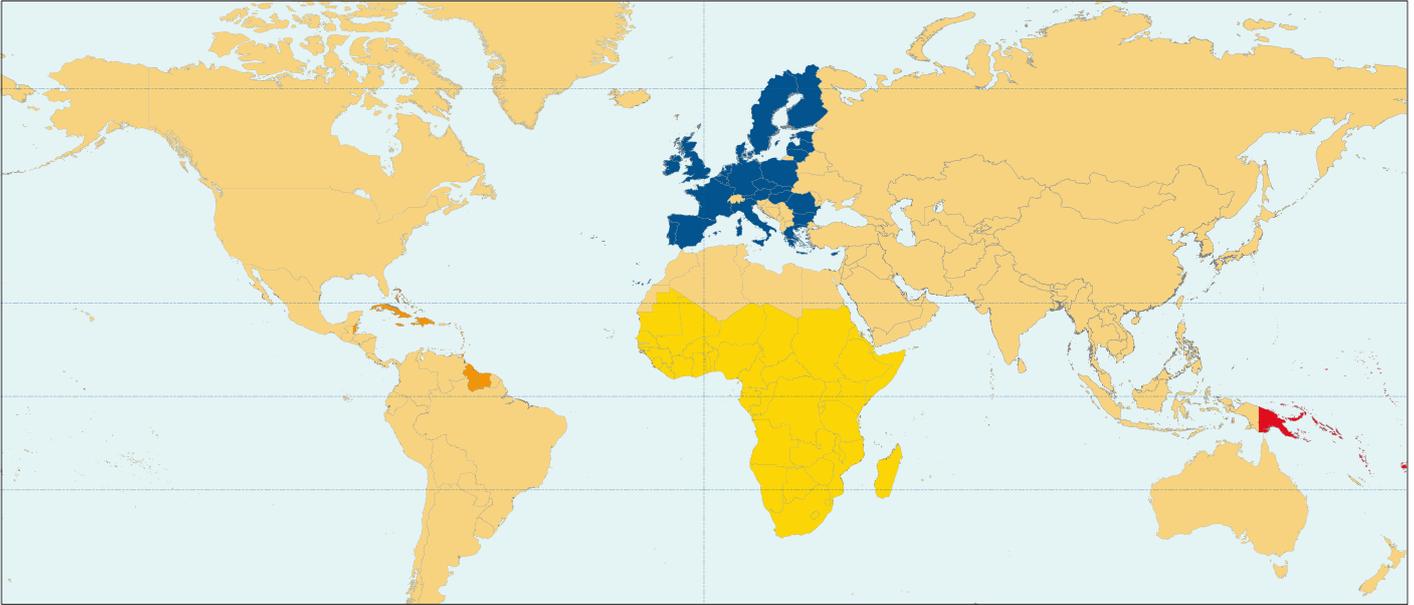
- 14-15 **International Workshop**
(Brussels, 14-15 October 2009) on “Poverty Eradication and Sexual and Reproductive Health”
Brussels, Belgium
- 14-17 **The Role of the Media in agricultural development in ACP countries (International seminar)**
Brussels, Belgium
<http://annualeseminar2009.cta.int/>
- From 15/10 **Exhibition: L'Art d'être un homme – Africa, Oceania**
Musée Dapper, Paris, France
<http://www.dapper.com.fr/index.php>
- 22-24 **European Development Days**
Stockholm, Sweden
<http://www.eudevdays.eu/>

- 27-30 **9th EURAFRIC-Partners Forum**
Theme: Water and Energy in Africa, Lyon, France
<http://www.eurafic.org/>
(in French)

November 2009

- 11-13 **2009 African Economic Conference**
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 25/11 **18th Session of the ACP Parliamentary**
03/12 Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
- 27-29 **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**
London, United Kingdom
<http://www.thecommonwealth.org>

Africa – Caribbean – Pacific and European Union countries



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