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REPORT

South Africa Showing the way

DOSSIER

Youth pushing development

DISCOVERING EUROPE

Austria - Surprising Tyrol

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Development policy: a tale of links and paradoxes



Seen from the outside, the European Union often appears to be a perfect example of a group of countries which has managed to transcend the atavistic weight of history and to bring to fruition a very special revolution, that of creating a powerful union without recourse to coercion. It is this Europe which, in the face of worrying political threats thrown up by the conflict between the strengthening of its institutions and the private interests of each Member State, is at present enacting one of its most important achievements, namely the creation of a functioning common foreign policy.

In this issue we provide a profile of one of the main architects of this new initiative, Catherine Ashton, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as outlining some of the possible pitfalls which lie in her path. Among the most pressing of these is the nomination of ambassadors to almost 130 EU delegations, a task which will no longer be performed solely by the European Commission, but also by the governments of Member States and the EU Council Secretariat. Large doses of tact and diplomacy will be required to reconcile the interests of the whole with those of its different components.

The special feature in this issue focuses on youth today, and the article in our 'To the Point' rubric gives the views of one of the youngest members of the European Parliament, Karima Delli from France, who is not only a young woman but also one whose origins are in the global South. With one foot in the social pressure groups in which she began and the other within the institutions, she emphasises what she feels she personally is best placed to create: links. Delli underlines the paradox which exists between the high rate of voter apathy regarding the European elections among young people, who often feel they are outside the system because of their precarious economic situation, and on the other hand the fact that they feel a natural identification with Europe, having been born 'within' it.

We also learn in this issue about the depth of despair among young people

of many developing countries, and how at the same time it is precisely they who show some of the greatest ingenuity in creating jobs for themselves, above all in the pioneering field of new technologies. As far as the young people of Haiti are concerned, however, the earthquake has destroyed their dreams. The International Donors' Conference "Towards a new future for Haiti" was to take place on the 31 March, and Ms. Ashton and European Commissioner Piebalgs, both in attendance, were certainly not intending to turn up empty-handed. The EU has set up an impressive policy structure for Haiti, the result perhaps of the new foreign policy instruments which it now possesses. There is, nevertheless, another nation that now has a Haitian policy to be reckoned with, the Dominican Republic. In a highly significant shift in the tectonic plates of global politics, it is celebrating its reconciliation with its neighbour by giving generously.

The completion of the process of construction of the two greatest peaceful revolutions of the 20th century, that of the European Union and that of South Africa, seems too to be shifting into a higher gear at an unexpected time. The coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty has taken place at the end of a period of great gloom for the European integration project, and it was accompanied by the arrival in power of Jacob Zuma in South Africa, which was feared by some to presage the triumph of certain hardline attitudes. However, the reverse appears to have been the case. This is at least what the report on the country contained in this issue seems to indicate. The new government has placed a great deal of emphasis on providing an outlet for dissent, and the president has pledged his support for a collective model by allowing his colleagues in the government plenty of room for manoeuvre. These changes appear to corroborate the existence of a 'social laboratory' in South Africa, as well as a number of other 'laboratories' in which creative thinking plays an important role, in spite of the open wounds that doubtless remain in South Africa and the disillusionment which is often voiced by the media.

Hegel Goutier
Editor in chief

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Mabouso Thiam
Director of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise

A strong link between EU and ACP companies

Hegel Goutier

Mabouso Thiam was appointed Director of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE*) in March 2009. In less than a year, he has left his mark on this organisation which promotes private sector cooperation between the European Union and the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

The signing, on 2 February 2010, of the ATHENA convention – a financial instrument for the financing of very small companies in ACP countries on which an agreement between the CDE and the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) is based – epitomises Thiam’s dynamism. The Belgian Minister for Cooperation, Charles Michel, who sees BIO as the Belgian government’s most powerful tool in development cooperation for

enterprise, endorsed the signing ceremony.

BIO is a joint venture between the Belgian government and private companies which invest in companies in developing countries, in particular in Africa where the organisation has partners in 16 priority countries. In total, BIO is present in more than 100 countries, 23 of which are prioritised. Mabouso Thiam put a great deal of effort into the conclusion of ATHENA, which will benefit a specific type of ACP company – those which are too small to attract major foreign investment and too big to receive microfinance.

An impressive track record

A lawyer and economist, he trained in his native Senegal at the faculty of law in Dakar and at the International Institute of Banking and Economics in Cyprus. Thiam began his career in Paris in an

international company trading in seafood products. He left after a year in 1980 to join the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) working in its various departments over eight years, including public relations, regulations and the inspection of commercial banks before tackling the restructuring of the region’s entire banking system.

After leaving the public sector, Thiam spent ten years as the head of various successful food companies in Senegal, while at the same time carrying out studies for private and public sector projects, holding negotiations with funding providers, organising the recruitment of personnel and focusing on management tools in his consultancy business.

From 1997, he began a 10-year period of international consultancy. As head of his company, Assistance et conseils aux Entreprises, he carried out

mandates for numerous major clients including the World Bank, USAID and governments, notably those of France and Canada, in a wide range of fields, but generally linked to the private sector. The last project he managed before becoming Director of CDE on 3 March 2009 was a Senegalese government initiative backed by the World Bank to support the private sector. His impressive career path then led him to the CDE.

* www.cde.int;
www.proinvest-eu.org



Baroness Catherine Ashton. © ec

Catherine Ashton
High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Drawing on reserves of diplomacy

Debra Percival

Catherine Ashton is the first in the post of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. As a result, more column inches have been written about her to date than any other of the Commissioners in the European Commission's Barosso II cabinet (2010-2015).

This Spring her task is to draw up the blueprint of the EU's new European External Action Service (EEAS) to give EU foreign policy more of a single voice.

"We are connected in ways we have never been before. Technologies, ideas, diseases, money ... everything moves. At the heart of everything lies a simple truth: to protect our interests and promote our values we must be engaged abroad", she told Members of the European Parliament

(MEPs) in Strasbourg on 10 March.

Well-respected

In setting up the new service, she will draw on the quiet diplomacy that earned her a lot of respect whilst formerly EU Trade Commissioner, a position she took over from Peter Mandelson in 2008. Interviewed by The Courier in Samoa last year, Joachim Keil, the Pacific's trade negotiator, explained how she put talks between the EU and the region on an Economic Partnership Agreement back on track. "At the end of 2007, there was a bad feeling – nobody wanted to talk to each other for about a year", he said. But Catherine Ashton "... understood where we were coming from". A British citizen, Catherine Ashton was born in the town of Upholland in Lancashire from where she draws the title of Baroness Ashton of Upholland. She variously held posts in the public, private and voluntary sectors in the

UK chairing the Health Authority in Hertfordshire from 1998 to 2001 and was also Vice President of the National Council for One Parent Families. She held ministerial positions in the British Government in both Justice and Education and was leader of the House of Lords.

But in the first few months as the new EU's foreign policy 'supremo', she has faced a headwind in raising the sail of the EEAS whose organisation chart was due to be approved by EU Ministers in April 2010.

Sparring

Signs of sparring are already emerging on the one hand between EU member states and on the other, between member states and the EU Commission as names are drawn up to fill the posts of Ambassador in up to 130 EU delegations around the globe. Presently, they are mostly filled by European Commission career staff of various nationalities but shifts are likely as EU capitals seek to place

their own nationals in the EU delegations. The Ambassadors will both administer EU programmes and apply the policies of the foreign policy head. The plan is that one third of delegations will be staffed by Commission personnel, one third by Council Secretariat staff and one third by EU member State nationals.

Another work in progress is how Baroness Ashton will share her duties with fellow Commissioners for Development, Andris Piebalgs, in charge of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and Kristina Georgieva who deals with International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance. Baroness Ashton was mandated by EU Ministers on 22 March to represent the EU at the 'International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti' in New York on 31 March where she was to announce an EU three year €1bn plus pledge for Haiti over the next three years.



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Karima Delli, young activist and member of the European Parliament

Anne-Marie Mouradian

Born in 1979 in Roubaix, France, to Algerian immigrant parents, Karima Delli caused a stir in 2009 when she was elected as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) on Daniel Cohn Bendit and Eva Joly's Europe-Ecologie list.

A former political science student, former general secretary of the Jeunes Verts (Young Greens), cofounder of community groups, this activist has stood out because of her determination and activism in the fight against social exclusion. One of the youngest members of the European Parliament,

she has expressed her desire to keep “one foot in the social movements, one foot in the institutions”. Karima Delli builds bridges to advance democratic solidarity and has been stirring things up from the inside for the last 10 months in the Employment and Regional Development committees. “I’m not coming to Parliament to build a career but rather I am on a mission”, she explained. “I have 5 years to get there. I am working flat out and with a smile because smiles create hope.”

The Courier – Is it possible to reconcile your life as an activist with your role as an MEP?

Yes, because it's essential. Everything that I take to European level comes from my work as an activist and I want to bring the social movement to the European Parliament. Europe has 80 million poor people. This year (2010) has been declared European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion and we must use this opportunity to make things happen. I was appointed as coordinator on this issue by the *Verts/Alliance libre européenne* Group. We're working so that within companies, employees can make their voices heard regarding remuneration policies. We demand equal pay for men and women, the end of tax havens, the taxing of bonuses.. The Employment Commission has recently adopted two reports which make significant progress on these points.

I am also vice-president of the URBAN InterGroup which is responsible for urban policy. I am fighting to make the housing problem a priority with special emphasis on issues related to energy poverty. An increasing number of households in Europe are no longer able to pay not only their rent, but their heating costs as a result of the buildings being poorly insulated.

We want to involve citizens in our debates, especially those from working-class neighbourhoods. I took a delegation of MEPs from the Regional Development Committee out in the field with me, in the Ile-de-France area, to get them out of their Brussels bubble for a while and give them a dose of reality.

Young people are very concerned about these issues. And after all it is the young who will build the Europe of tomorrow...

In the last European elections, the overall abstention rate in France was 57 per cent, reaching 80 per cent among the 18-34 age group! Yet young people have a natural relationship with Europe, they are born 'inside' of it, so to speak. But they see no need to vote because Europe does not provide answers to their problems, namely unemployment, insecurity, shortage of housing, skyrocketing rental prices. Young people have no social welfare system, but one in five young people in Europe live below the poverty line! Even those who have a very high level of education have to supplement their income with part-time work.

There should be a European minimum income which should be extended to students and apprentices, to create a



France, Nantes, students demonstrate against the CPE (first employment contract). © Reporters

European student status and to promote greater mobility. Erasmus is a great programme but it should be extended to all young people whatever their social status. Nobody can live on the €400 per month provided by Erasmus if they are not helped by their parents.

How exactly can we "reconcile the young with Europe"?

There is a lot of educational work to do. I am a member of the Youth Parliament InterGroup. I get visits from young people from impoverished neighbourhoods and I explain to them what exactly Europe is.

It is time to renew the policy. The unions are now attracting fewer members than before. It is up to young people to come up with new ways to engage people. Young people were present at the Copenhagen summit on climate change. They create action groups such as the 'Precarious Generation' and 'Save the Rich' groups in France... Other groups exist in different Member States and together they constitute a European youth network.

Instead of coming up with solutions for young people, decision-makers should come up with them through collaboration with young people, using real situations which they have experienced as a basis.

In March, the Greens participated in a European meeting in Barcelona with representatives of youth organisations to discuss access to employment, the risks of exclusion and insecurity. The findings will be included in an upcoming parliamentary report. We must move forward one step at a time, using all instruments at our disposal in the EU.

You have also been named as a spokesperson for the European Year of Volunteering in 2011.

Yes, the proceedings have now been finalised. Volunteering allows young people to spend six months of their life undertaking community work. It functions as a tool to encourage them to rediscover Europe and promote a social solidarity economy. It shouldn't however be confused with voluntary work. The volunteers taking part in this programme should be remunerated and recognised as skilled professionals.

As a member of the parliamentary delegation responsible for relations with India you are working for solidarity with the South

I worked with the landless farmers' movement, a popular, non-violent movement, inspired by Gandhi, created by Rajagopal. Thousands of Indian farmers commit suicide every year because they can no longer support their families, victims of multinationals like *Monsanto*. In 2006, 25,000 landless farmers marched on Delhi to assert their rights. An international platform has been created and is preparing for a march in 2012. I will take part in it.

We often only see India in the context of an 'emerging economy'. But there is a lot of poverty. In February, I led the delegation of the European Parliament in Bhopal. Twenty-five years after the disaster, the site of the Union Carbide factory has still not been decontaminated; farmers live within 100 metres of it, their goats effectively grazing on asbestos. It is unbearable. We have submitted a resolution to the European Parliament to encourage the decontamination of the area. This is a very serious issue.



The new cooperation leaders

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Development cooperation is in crisis. Effectiveness, empowerment by recipient states and new synergies are all challenges to which development actors must respond. Who will take the lead in pursuing a new policy? A seminar organised by Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) on 25 January 2010 and attended by senior European Commission officials and cooperation agencies from Denmark, the United Kingdom and Germany sought to provide some answers.

Marie-Martine Buckens

The controversial book 'Dead Aid' by the Zambian Dambisa Moyo sought to highlight the problem, one that the global crisis has also placed in the spotlight. But a number of deadlines are now approaching: the UN Summit that in September will evaluate progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and, in

2011, the fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul.

Paradoxical policies

"We must respond to sometimes contradictory actions and expectations", Marcus Leroy, Belgian minister counsellor and special MDGs coordinator explained, by way of introduction. "The very notion of development is such that it is linked to the notion of progress. But what is progress? If the ultimate goal is to offer better quality of life, then the question of how to quantify it becomes an essential one, as an evaluation must refer to indicators". Playing devil's advocate, Leroy continues: "There is also a huge paradox: we know that aid is most effective where it is least necessary and vice versa, which puts us in an uncomfortable position. However, it is generally accepted that action is better than inaction. We act, giving ourselves the impression that we are in control. But it is an illusion to think that the results are necessarily the fruit of our actions".

Flexibility

"Until recently, input was the reference", stressed Koos Richelle, Director General of EuropeAid at the European Commission. "The last reference was the famous 0.7 per cent of GNI, the public development aid target that each country was to meet. Today, we have

to build a convincing case that cooperation is still useful. You have to produce results; Parliament and taxpayers demand them. The difficulty is that there is no uniform system for quantifying results. On this point we are vulnerable".

"In the past", continued Mr. Rochelle, "aid was conditional. Today we speak of empowerment. We have to convince populations to adopt our ideas: 'we do this, you do that.' This more professional approach is a good thing. It encourages NGOs to review their policies from a more economic, more technical angle. It also encourages the recipient to be more responsible".

So are people being sufficiently prepared? "Technical assistance – increasingly censured – must be constantly called into question. The question of management becomes central now that aid is increasingly taking the form of budgetary support. And that is something we can no longer do alone. Coordination between aid organisations is becoming central. So too is training, as demonstrated by the Train4dev programme."*

* Train4dev is a network of more than 25 development agencies and multilateral organisations. Its aim is to promote effective aid through training – including for local personnel – and the exchange of competencies. Info: www.train4dev.net/

Europe must shake off its comfortable habits

EU development policy must break out of the restricted framework into which it has been put, and become an integral part of the international cooperation policy re-established by the Lisbon Treaty, say four leading European think-tanks. In a memorandum presented to the new European Commission in February, ECDPM, ODI, DIE and FRIDE * urged it to demonstrate new leadership in the effort to determine how development cooperation can help tackle common global issues.

Paul Engel, Director of ECDPM, said: "Just two years ago, development cooperation could still be seen as a policy area of its own, responding to the clear-cut de-

velopment objectives embodied in the Millennium Development Goals.....a world in crisis has shaped an international cooperation agenda that has diversified almost overnight. If Europe wants to increase its global impact, it needs to shake off its comfortable habits and provide evidence of leadership in support of international cooperation which fosters sustainable development".

In their memorandum, the four think-tanks call upon the EU to "make fuller use of its considerable resources and the shared values enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty to lead a new engagement". While calling for a €20bn shortfall in development fund-

ing to be made up, this report underlines that aid in itself is not enough. Policies on trade, climate change, security and migration must all take into account the imperative of the fight against global poverty.

* The report, "New Challenges, New Beginnings" (www.ecdpm.org/eumemo), is the result of collaboration between four European think-tanks on international development: the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) from the UK, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the Madrid-based Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE) and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in the Netherlands.

Off target: EU member states' aid spending

Debra Percival

European Union (EU) member states are not on track to reach the target of an average 0.51 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) to be spent on Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2010, says a new review of the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The target was set in 2005 by 15 EU member states as an interim benchmark to reaching 0.7 per cent of GNI spending on ODA by 2015.*

The OECD review names EU member states whose ODA spending lags behind the 2010 target. They are: France (0.46 per cent); Germany (0.40 per cent); Austria (0.37 per cent); Portugal (0.34 per cent); Greece (0.21 per cent) and Italy (0.20 per cent).

EU member states who are on track to fulfil 2010 ODA pledges made in 2005 are: Sweden, which ranks as world number one in terms of percentage of GNI spent on ODA (1.3 per cent); Luxembourg (1 per cent); Denmark (0.83 per cent); The Netherlands (0.8 per cent); Belgium (0.7 per cent); the UK (0.56 per cent); Finland (0.55 per cent); Ireland (0.52 per cent) and Spain (0.51 per cent).

CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development, fears that the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for 2015, which include wiping out hunger and extreme poverty, are now severely compromised by the failure of some member states to fulfil respective pledges and recommends the EU draw up new interim financing benchmarks.

"EU aid is under threat. Many governments have used the financial crisis as an excuse to slash their aid budgets, cutting off those in the developing world who are most affected", says CONCORD Board Member, Rilli Lappalainen.

On a more positive note, overall international aid to developing countries will reach record levels in dollar terms in 2010, having increased 35 per cent since 2004, or an additional \$27bn of aid 2004-2010, but this is \$21bn short of the total pledge made in 2005 at the Gleneagles and Millennium +5 summits.

* Different targets of 0.17 per cent of GNI to be spent on ODA by 2010 rising to 0.33 per cent by 2015 apply to EU newcomers.
www.concordeurope.org
www.oecd.org/dac/stats
http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/dev-policy-proposals_en.cfm <http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/dev-policy-proposals_en.cfm (European Commission MDG plan)



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Africa's baby boom

Of all developing countries, it is those in Africa that are set to see the most dramatic demographic growth over the next 40 years. But how can this increase be managed to ensure it does not translate into even greater poverty? Avenues were explored at a meeting in Brussels on 27 January organised by the European Commission, the ACP Secretariat, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and development NGOs.

Marie-Martine Buckens

With a population of a billion in 2009, by 2050 Africa is expected to have exceeded the 2 billion mark, rising to 4 billion in 2100. Figures that nonetheless need to be put in perspective, when you consider that Africa today is four times less densely populated than Europe (which has 30 inhabitants per km²), albeit with some notable exceptions, such as Nigeria (155 inhabitants per km²). Over the coming decades Africa will be the only continent to record a birth rate above the average of 2.1 children per woman that ensures population renewal. The other distinctive feature is that this is an essentially young population, but one facing formidable challenges with wars and epidemics encumbering fragile agricultural economies.

The central role of women

For participants at the Brussels conference, managing demographic growth was seen as necessarily a matter of better control of fertility rates (record rates in Niger and Ethiopia). “The best solution,” explained Wolfgang Lutz of the IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis), “seems to involve educating women”. This is most clearly the message of a study carried out in Ethiopia showing that women without formal education have on average six children, while those who have completed at least lower secondary education have an average of just two. “The human capital – population x education x health – that forms the basis of nearly all development must be at the centre of all efforts for international development”, concluded Mr Lutz.

“Emptying” Europe

“The population increase was the key to Europe’s rise to eminence between the 10th and 13th centuries. Conversely, periods of decline or turning inwards correspond to periods of population declines. What food for thought! But also cause for concern! Europe today is an empty world surrounded by full worlds, as in the past Europe itself was a world of overabundance dominating a world that was empty. Questions about the future of our continent are inextricably linked to questions regarding its demography”, notes the historian René Rémond.

In 2009, the world population reached 6.8 billion. Despite a slowdown in the rate of increase, the UN expects this figure to increase from 6.8 to 9.1 billion in 2050. This growth in world population will be almost exclusively in developing countries. The ageing population in developed countries is due to the falling fertility rate coupled with a considerable increase in life expectancy. Ageing societies represent about 70 per cent of the world’s GDP.



Africa-China : lessons for the EU

Ahead of the Shanghai Expo 2010, China (1 May to 31-October 2010), a showcase for all the globe's nations, notably those of the African continent (see box), we ask Professor Ian Taylor, an expert on China-Africa relations at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland* whether Europe has any lessons to learn from China's expanding ties with Africa.

Billboard promoting the African continent at the China-Africa Summit meeting, November 3-5, 2006. © Reporters/AP

Debra Percival

What is the nature of a typical agreement between China and an African nation?

Economic agreements (minerals are the big ones) are usually negotiated by the Chinese company with the authority in Africa. In some cases, there are indications that Chinese companies get an advantage through political support of the government. Infrastructure projects, for example, may be offered up alongside a particular deal where the Chinese company may potentially be granted a [minerals] contract. But this has also been overplayed in the [Western] media.

Where is China most present in the African continent?

If you look at China's top 10 trading partners in the African continent, with the exception of South Africa (whose trade with China is more of a general

nature), they are either mineral or oil producers: Equatorial Guinea, Congo-Brazzaville, Angola and Sudan.

Do you have a ballpark figure for China's trade with Africa?

China's bilateral trade with Africa rose from \$US5bn in 1997 and last year was \$US106.8bn, an increase of 45 per cent on the previous year.

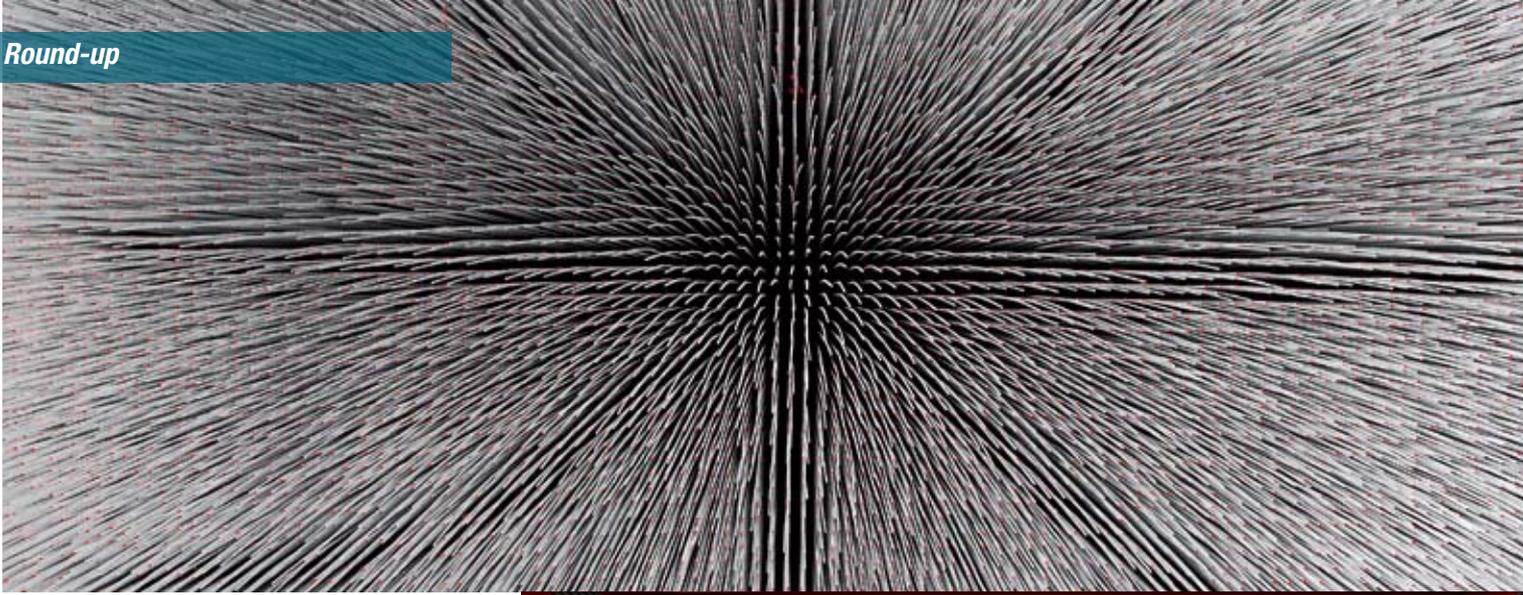
So Africa-China economic relations have not been affected by the economic crisis?

When the recession kicked in, everybody said the Chinese are going to leave Africa but they actually haven't and have in fact stepped up a gear. Africa is extremely important to China because the Chinese government's legitimacy nowadays is only based on economic growth, not ideology. A lot of this depends on inputs, particularly oil and other minerals, to propel the economy. One of the problems is that the relationship is the same type that Africa has had with Europe or the US; it is neo-colonial in the sense that China imports raw

commodities like minerals and Africa imports manufactured goods.

Another criticism levelled at China is that unlike EU cooperation, its policy is not very principled, lacking both a human rights and poverty eradication focus

The Chinese position is simply that development comes first ahead of individual human rights. The Chinese authorities would argue that in providing infrastructure, you lay the groundwork for development. The human rights issue is one of the big weaknesses in China's policy towards Africa. They argue that human rights is about development but in many African countries like Sudan and Zimbabwe, the governments themselves have undermined the development of their own people, so the Chinese position is not coherent because they argue that they are involved in development but they are also involved with some authorities with anti-development policies. China does, however, have a different approach to human rights to the West and this has to be understood.



The U.K. pavilion made up of thousands of slender transparent rods. © Reporters/AP
 The Chinese Pavilion revealed at a ceremony finalising construction at the Shanghai World Expo site. © Reporters/AP

Do you view China's presence in Africa as positive or negative?

Overall, it's positive. They are laying the ground for infrastructure projects. They have pushed up mineral prices and of course this can reinforce Africa's dependency on primary commodities but that's not China's problem; it's Africa's problem. There are negatives, but I think that every country whether we are talking about the EU or the US has got negative aspects to its policies.

"Policymakers in Europe are going to have to get used to the idea that Africa is no longer their exclusive sphere of influence and that there are new actors"

And the negatives of China's presence in Africa?

It varies from country-to-country; space is potentially opened up for autocrats to find a new source of political support which frees them from having to fulfil government conditionalities. But the Chinese presence has re-focused the minds of Western policymakers on Africa. The continent is emerging as the big issue in international relations. In Europe, we are so used to Africa being in our backyards and in our sphere of influence, but perhaps the rise of China and others in Africa like India, Brazil, Turkey and Israel is good for Africa as it re-focuses on the continent and makes us [in the West] re-think our policies.

Does the EU have anything to learn from the way that China conducts its policy to Africa?

The Chinese would say that they have been responsive to the African governments' requirements on infrastructure, whereas the Europeans have been more focussed on things that come after development like individual human



rights. The main handicap for the EU is that it is just not united when it comes to policy. There are EU policy documents on Africa but what actually happens on the ground is that France does this and the UK does that. This undermines the coherence of a European policy.

Is there scope for EU-China-Africa triangular relations?

A lot of ink has been spilt on the concept of tripartite talks between the three actors, but I don't see the other two buying into it. It is very much

European driven. Policymakers in Europe are going to have to get used to the idea that Africa is no longer their exclusive sphere of influence and that there are new actors. China is the first one but there are others: India, Brazil, Malaysia, and particularly in the past two years, Iran.

Where are relations heading?

Trade will keep on growing but the danger is that it is not sustainable as it is based on minerals and there is no real evidence of industrialisation in Africa as part of this relationship. This has been the case in Africa since independence. There is a danger that China will reinforce what the West has been doing for the last forty years or so. But as long as the Chinese economy continues to grow and needs inputs and as long as Africa has them, I think this relationship will carry on.

*Professor Taylor's latest publication is: 'China's New Role in Africa' published by Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2010. A new book on Africa's international relations is out in April 2010 and a book on the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation will be coming out later this year.

He is also Joint Professor at China's Renmin University, Honorary Professor at Zhejiang Normal University, China and Extraordinary Professor at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

ACPs in Shanghai

Fifty-three African nations, 42 of which will share a pavilion with the African Union (AU), are expected at the Shanghai Expo2010. The Caribbean community's pavilion features a Haitian hall with an exhibition of its capital Port-au-Prince before and post-earthquake to draw attention to the country's reconstruction. The joint pavilion of 14 Pacific Ocean nations will promote the region as a tourism heaven; 'Pacific Ocean – Spring of Inspiration'.



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Should youth move up the development agenda?

Debra Percival

There is no specific Millennium Development Goal on Youth, but all the MDGs from the eradication of poverty (MDG1) to a global partnership for development (MDG 8) have relevance to the 15-30 age bracket.

Over the last two decades there have been many international and regional initiatives to move youth further up the development agenda including the European-African Youth Summit of 2007. This year, the Mexican government will add to those in hosting a global youth summit in Mexico City, August 24-27.

It will set out priorities for youth targets beyond the MDG agenda which will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly. Governments, civil society, academic institutions, public and private foundations and international organisations will all have a voice at the event. Young people today are more numerous, better educated and enjoy better health than previous gen-

erations and have fewer children than predecessors. The right policies could boost economic growth and increase savings, reads a concept note for the summit.

The European Union does not have a 'youth for development policy' as such but EU officials explain that "youth empowerment" runs through its policies for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations. Funding under the European Development Fund (EDF) for ACP countries goes from budget support for education and the building of colleges to small projects such as 'Silence is Violence' in Botswana which is run by the non governmental organisation, Women against Rape, and is educating young people on why cases of harassment, assault and rape occur.

'Youth in Action'

The €885M 'Youth in Action Programme' run by the European Commission's Directorate for Education (2007-2013) funds intercultural exchanges, voluntary projects and non-formal education activities across Europe, but also brings together European youth organisations with counterparts in ACP countries.

Projects which include ACP youth range from the holding of a Youth Parliament, in Montevideo, Uruguay, July 5-11 2010, an initiative of the Goethe Institute, Uruguay, to a project for better inclusion of young people with intellectual disability into society through sport. Young people in Nigeria, Botswana, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Uganda are involved in this project.*

As the aid budgets of some EU member states wane, a recent EU staff paper, "More and Better Education in Developing Countries" firmly puts across the message that education has a "...pivotal role to play in enabling long-term growth and improvements in productivity, eradication of poverty, improving health status, empowering women, reducing inequality and contributing to state building".

Away from the wrangles of how aid is spent – education or elsewhere – in the following pages our dossier puts across loud and clear the tenacity and ambition of youth across the ACP regions from the scuppered but still surviving dreams of Haitians to budding film directors in the Kenyan slum, Kibera, and pioneering 'Miss Samoa' in the Pacific who is leading the way for young engineers.

*For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74_en.htm
**http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/SEC2010_0121_EN.pdf



A future at the end of a lens

Josphat Keya. © Hot Sun Foundation

Surrounding the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Kibera, home to over half a million people, is East Africa's largest slum. The Hot Sun Foundation is a non-profit arm of Hot Sun Films which began making films in Kibera in 2005 with the international award winning *Kibera Kid*. The Kibera Film School is the largest of its projects, putting young people from Kibera on the path of realising ambitions to become directors and producers and is developing a core of film makers to train others. It has made a huge difference to the self-esteem of the slum's young people and has fuelled pride in their community.

Debra Percival

“We are working towards developing Kibera as a centre for the film industry in Kenya where we can produce video projects that will financially support the Hot Sun Foundation”, says Pamela Collett, the foundation's Global Communications Officer. The Film School is just one of Hot Sun Foundation's many projects which also include community workshops, community film screenings, street theatre and training in performance and storytelling.

Having provided a three-year grant to the foundation, the Belgian cultural association, Africalia is currently its main funder, although it has also received support from the Australian High Commission and the Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi. The project also generates its own income from the sale of its DVDs, especially *Kibera Kid* as well as other small commercial projects. Collett says the foundation also receives online donations through www.globalgiving.org/3632 and donations of digital still and video cameras have come from Europe and the USA. Several international and local interns and volunteers have also given technical assistance. But to develop the skills and experience

needed to be commercially viable will still take a further three to five years, says Collett.

‘Togetherness Supreme’

Togetherness Supreme is the soon-to-be-released full length feature film made in Kibera Film School with the sister organisation, Hot Sun Films. Its cast all comes from Kibera and Kibera Film School trainees work alongside professionals in the crew. Earning a small stipend at the film school, all of the students we interviewed had ambitions of finding permanent jobs in the international film industry.



Gabriela Operre. © Hot Sun Foundation



Victor Oluoch. © Hot Sun Foundation



Faith Wavinya. © Hot Sun Foundation

Faith Wavinya, 23

A sales representative for TV satellite dishes before joining the project: “When I was given the opportunity to work as a trainee in digital downloads with the Red One camera in Kibera (while filming *Togetherness Supreme*), it awakened my interest in film making and editing and was a turning point in my life”, she says. “Now I enjoy my life every day. I wake up and I’m happy. I can shoot and edit a video – something that I couldn’t do before. I intend to use the knowledge I have to support my mother and make her life better. Telling stories about the community has given her a more positive outlook on life”, she adds. Wavinya wants to be a good leader and a filmmaker and give back to her community films whilst furthering her ambition of working as a producer or editor with Hot Sun Films.

“Before, my life was one of survival, now I have a creative life”

Victor Oluoch

Gabriela Operre, 22

Gabriela is completing her A levels and is a performing artist. “I want to continue to be an activist in trying to make Kibera a good place especially for girl empowerment”, she says. “I am working with several community groups including: Amani Communities Africa, as a performing artist for peace; secretary of KCODA, the group that shares information with the community and with Power of Hope, a theatre group dealing with different community themes. I want to be an activist, performing artist, filmmaker and trainer”, she says. Being in the school has broadened her activities beyond acting to editing, production techniques and script writing.

Victor Oluoch, 22

Victor has also learnt invaluable new skills at the Film School. “Before coming to Hot Sun Foundation, I had never used any kind of video camera.” To survive, he used to sell shoes and clothing in the informal economy. “I have learned general filmmaking skills including scriptwriting, working with actors, camera, sound, production, directing, and editing.” His new found strengths are in camerawork and editing. “I figure out different creative angles – crazy angles – that people may not be thinking about. Whenever I am doing the camera

work, I also feel like a director. I work with passion and dedication – that is what is motivating me the most. I am just hoping to do well in the filmmaking industry and want to change filmmaking in our country; to tell stories of my country and my community”, he says. He has learnt scriptwriting, working with actors, camera, sound, production, directing and editing, and the course has completely changed his way of thinking and given him a new direction. “Before, my life was one of survival; now I have a creative life”, he continues. “I just want my world to be a better place for people like me. If you look at my back-story, I had no future. Hot Sun Foundation gave me a future. It was a rebirth. I have a dream and I want to build my future. I want to be a great filmmaker and help other people achieve their dreams.”

Josphat Keya, 23

Josphat did some electrical installation work with his father before going to the school and knew nothing about filmmaking. “I liked to write stories, so I thought I would come to the Kibera Film School and sharpen that little skill of storytelling”, he tells us. “But filmmaking is not just about storytelling; it is about the camera and editing. I want to come up with the stories that have not been told, that can especially educate the youth and those people who are neglected”, he says. He has ambitions of directing: “I believe a director should understand scriptwriting, photography, the actors, everyone. I want to be a director who should know all parts of the filmmaking business”.

In March, the Film School was hoping to complete a short autobiographical documentary, *Jewel in the Dust*, on DVD as well as a series of short documentaries about other community organisations in the slum. Six short films from Kibera can be purchased on: www.buykiberakid.com.

Find out more:

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www.hotsunfoundation.org/
www.togethernesssupreme.com/
kiberakid.blogspot.com/
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twitter.com/hotsunfilms/

Catch a preview of *Togetherness Supreme* at: <http://vimeo.com/9824685>

Destroyed dreams in Haiti

Measuring 7.02 on the Richter scale, the earthquake of 12 January 2010 claimed more than 200,000 lives and destroyed more than 250,000 buildings, including schools. In the process, it shattered the dreams of Haitian youth, leaving them with the feeling that they have to start again from nothing.

Francesca Theosmy

Fendy Morency, 27, stayed on alone in Port-au-Prince after all his family left. While completing his studies in social work at the State University he was giving primary school classes before the disaster struck.

“Before 12 January, despite the difficult conditions, many people had a certain socio-economic stability. But after 12 January we were faced with an altogether new socio-economic reality. In all sectors of life we simply have to start again from zero. Some university graduates have the feeling that there is no longer any hope.”

Frénèse Larose, 23, is a young single mother. On the morning of 12 January she paid 7500 gourdes (€1 = 54.6 Haitian Gourdes) to pay for her son’s school fees, sacrificing the last of her savings. In the afternoon her life was thrown into turmoil. Her four-year-old son suffered fractures and she had to entrust him to her mother who lives in Jérémie.

Health, education and agriculture are the three sectors that warrant priority in the reconstruction

“As everybody knows, these are hard times, especially when you have a child on your hands. I heard that kits were being distributed, with food and tarpaulin sheets, but I never received any. My son is receiving medical treatment and my mother phones me constantly to ask for money. If I had not been quick to fend for myself I would not have had anything to eat. I had a job before the

earthquake but my boss was killed”, explains Larose.

She had to abandon her house that was damaged badly by the earthquake and is now living at a reception centre in the capital.

More than half the population of Haiti are aged under 21 and 36.5 per cent are aged under 16. Before the earthquake they faced unemployment and difficulty gaining access to schooling. Now they have to face the even harsher conditions of life in centres for the homeless.



Youths search the rubble of a collapsed building for anything they can reuse or sell in the aftermath of Haiti’s earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010. © AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd



A girl watches the line of women waiting to receive supplies during a UN World Food Programme food distribution in Port-au-Prince, Saturday, March 6, 2010. © AP Photo/Esteban Felix

The World Food Programme that is coordinating international food aid has said that it did not expect the aid to reach everybody. But, in a context in which it is difficult to set priorities, food coupons are being sold or exchanged and frustration and despair are rapidly taking hold.

Some were able to survive the first days thanks to money sent from Haitians living abroad. It is estimated that money transfers to Haiti increased by 10 per cent in January compared with January 2009. But most Haitians have only themselves to count on, especially as the aid cannot last indefinitely. What is more, it looks like it will be a long process. When you look at Port-au-Prince you get the impression that the job of clearing away the rubble, the first step towards any reconstruction, has only just begun, despite the fact that it is now nearly two months since the earthquake.

“Change depends primarily on local strengths and capacities, and then international aid complements that”

“For the moment I see no change. If we wait until the country is rebuilt it will be five years before the schools are open again”, fears Frénèse Larose.

Shattered hopes

Constantly associating school with their future, the young people we spoke to made it clear that what was worst for them was the risk of losing valuable years that should be usefully employed preparing for a future that is now spoiled.

“I do not think the schools can just reopen. Things are going from bad to worse and the next few days will be even more difficult”, believes 15-year-old Delgado Rémy.

Almost two-thirds of the capital’s schools were hit by the earthquake.

Mechanical diggers have been at work over recent weeks, raising hopes – fuelled by government announcements – that

schools may be able to reopen. But many obstacles remain. Many schools left standing have been used to provide emergency accommodation for the homeless and finding alternative facilities for them is a major challenge. The homeless also often include teachers and administrative staff as well as pupils.

The earthquake also destroyed leisure facilities, access to which was limited to the privileged even before 12 January. Football pitches, including the country’s only stadium, Sylio Caor, have been transformed into camps for the homeless. Cinemas, many of which had already been forced to close for economic reasons but were planning to reopen, such as the Rex Theatre and the Triomphe, were severely damaged or even destroyed entirely in the earthquake. The car park of the Ciné Imperial, the last to shut up shop, has been transformed into a reception site for those who saw their homes destroyed.

More aftershocks

“We are living in fear of further aftershocks. We had never experienced anything like this before and we wonder if we could survive a repeat”, admits young Remy, who thinks it will be at least two years before calm and hope can return.

The reconstruction process launched in February by Prime Minister Jean Max Bellerive with the PDNA (Post-Disaster Needs Assessment), a document that must define and guide the reconstruction effort, is seen by the young people we spoke to as no more than an opportunity for the politicians to wrangle and compete.

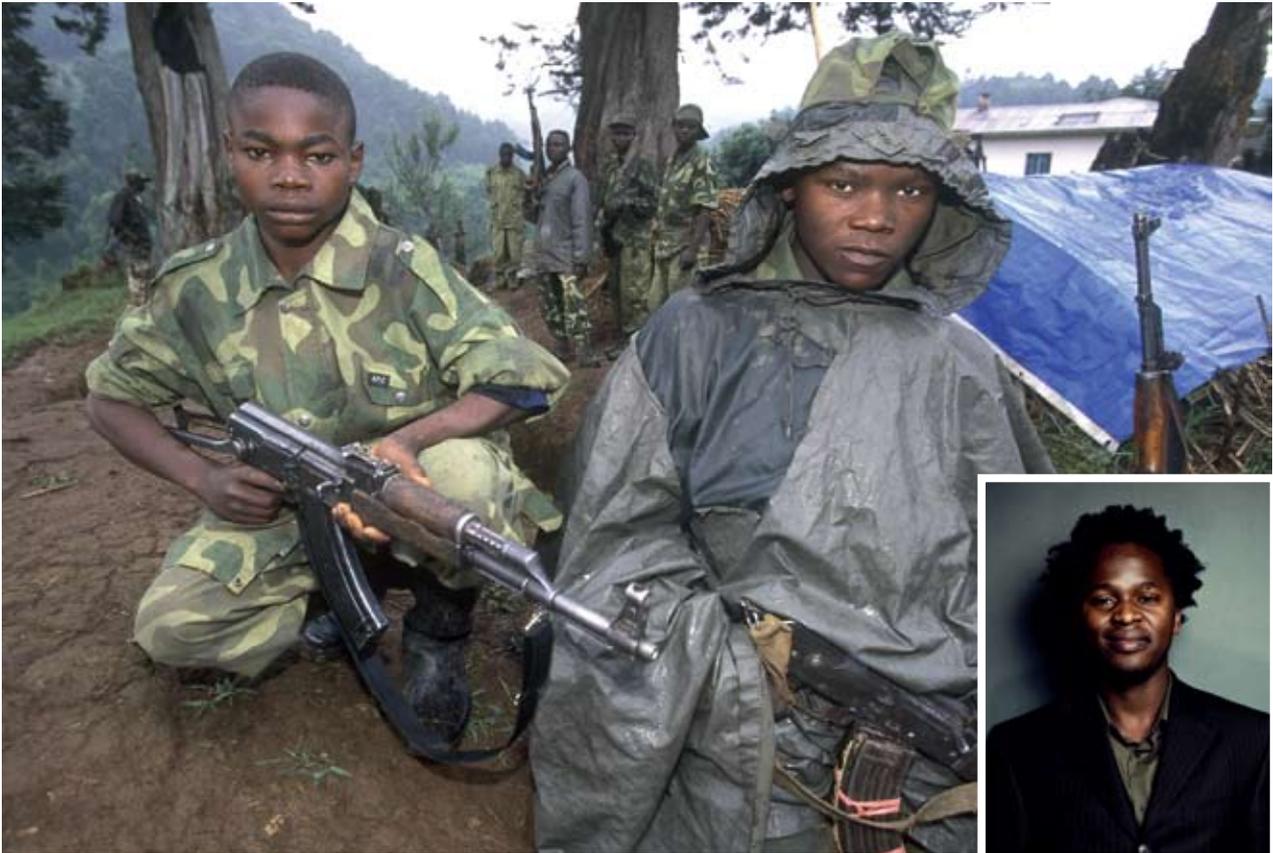
“Haiti’s young people must be positive and believe that they bear responsibility for reconstruction. Some have adopted this positive attitude already, but many see 12 January as simply the end”, said Fendy Morency.

He believes that health, education and agriculture are the three sectors that warrant priority in the reconstruction.

“Some young people believe that to achieve change, the impetus must come from the international community. But they don’t realise that change depends primarily on local strengths and capacities, and then international aid complements that.”



The strength to survive



Child soldiers Rebel Liberation Front of Congo (FLC - MLC) Front de Libération du Congo (FLC). © Reporters/Wim Van Cappellen

Former Sierra Leone child soldier Ishmael Beah, author of the book "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier". © Reporters/Redux

Marie-Martine Buckens

“We want to tell the world that we are not the ‘lost generation’, that the case of child soldiers is not a desperate one, and that people can come through it.” Strengthened by this conviction, six former child soldiers or child victims of war founded the Network of Young People Affected by War (NYPAW: www.nypaw.org) in 2008.

Tellingly, five of these six founding members of NYPAW come from the troubled African continent: two from Sudan, two (women) from Uganda, and one from Sierra Leone; all regions where civil wars have been, or still are, rife. Zlata Filipović, the woman who has been called the ‘Anne Frank of Sarajevo’, is the sixth member of the group.

Grace Akallo, now 29, told the United Nations Security Council last April how she, along with several other students, was abducted at gunpoint by the Lord’s

Resistance Army in 1996, as they travelled to school. They were raped and then forced to become soldiers. She later fought alongside the Sudan People’s Liberation Army. She was made to kill the other girls in her group when they tried to escape or refused their husbands. After several months in captivity, she finally managed to escape. She was taken in by villagers in South Sudan, before being taken back to her parents. She returned to college, and was then lucky enough to go to university and get a diploma – an opportunity that the other young girls who were abducted with her were denied. “I’ve told you my story but there are thousands of others that you haven’t heard”, she declared to the Security Council.

Resilience

Grace Akallo isn’t alone in demonstrating such an extraordinary capacity for healing. Ishmael Beah was 12 years old when war broke out in Sierra Leone. Forced to join the army, he later bore witness to the hell he experienced in a book, and today he fights for an end to the use of children in war. “The army was survival”, he says. “You had to join

or you were killed. But the situation has been reversed. Although initially I had been trying to survive to escape from the war, I ended up surviving with the sole aim of making war, of hurting people.” In 1998, when he was 18, miraculously he managed to reach the United States, thanks to an American storyteller who took him under her wing. He finished his secondary school education and is now doing very well at University. The Sudanese musician Emmanuel Jal has chosen to use songs as a means of exorcising his demons, and spreading the message of peace. A renowned hip-hop singer, he founded the NGO GUA Africa to educate former child soldiers.

John Kon Kelei is also from South Sudan. John is currently finishing his studies in European and International Law at the University of Nijmegen, and most importantly has created an NGO (www.cmsf.nl) that raises funds to set up secondary schools in South Sudan. Kelei is convinced that “education – not just primary education, which isn’t enough – allows children from poor countries to forge ahead, to build a future of progress and not of stagnation or regression”.



Miss Samoa. © Laufa Leaina Eli-Lesa

A beautiful mind

The 'Miss Samoa' crown has opened up doors of new opportunities for many of the winners. Tavalea is one of them.

Laufālēainā Lesā

Tavalea Nilon is not your average beauty. The 24-year-old is the current 'Miss Samoa'. This is a prestigious honour for young ladies in the Pacific island of Samoa. It's a title that gives its holder much influence and authority over their peers.

"I entered the 'Miss Samoa' pageant because it's a unique challenge and through this endeavour I hope to become a good ambassador for our country", she said.

But Tavalea was already an inspiration to many young people, especial-

ly females who wanted to pursue a career in engineering, before becoming 'Miss Samoa'. She graduated from the Australia National University with Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Science degrees.

Crowned 'Miss Samoa' while she was pursuing further studies towards her Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering in Australia, she has now put her studies on hold due to her commitments as 'Miss Samoa'.

Professional engineer

This includes working full time for the Samoa Tourism Authority as the face of Samoa in regional and international events to promote it as a tourist destination. Despite her youth, Tavalea is

well respected within the influential Institution of Professional Engineers of Samoa (IPES), of which she is a member.

"Engineering is a great career option as there are a lot of avenues you can go into. Engineering is what's making the world happen. Often when people think of engineering, they see it as mechanical only, but it's more than that", said Tavalea. She continued: "It's an especially good career to pursue for the people of Samoa as there are a lot of developments happening at the moment in our country".

"Engineering is what's making the world happen"

Her peers at the IPES have honoured her unique achievement. "Tavalea is a good role model for IPES as we approach schools to encourage young students to think of engineering as a career in which they need to work on their mathematics and science subjects", said Fonoti Perelini, President of the institution. He added: "She will make a great role model for young girls to pursue a professional career."

Pro renewable energies

She is one of only 12 female members of IPES, a predominantly male institution. Her appointment as 'Miss Samoa' has added to the attraction of taking up engineering as a career. "The 'Miss Samoa' title is a platform from which Tavalea can raise awareness on areas such as natural disasters like tsunamis, cyclones, earthquakes and problems like global warming affecting low lying islands in the Pacific", said Fonoti.

"Engineers will have a major contribution in finding solutions to mitigate the impacts of these natural disasters. Tavalea in her reign will promote awareness and increase the profile of engineers in Samoa and the region". She has also been involved in charity work. She is a member of Rotaract, Rotary International's youth programme, dedicated to helping the community.

Tavalea's other passion is to see more projects focused on renewable energy using Samoa's many natural resources. She continues to make a positive impact on other young women and men, to aspire to become all that they can be.



© Reporters

The world in your hands

In the days when the use of the telephone was limited, the post office was the only way of communicating with friends and relatives. A post office box was an important asset. The older generation also recalls long queues at Telephone Exchange in Ghana's capital, Accra, to place foreign calls. For the younger generation, even faxes and telexes are now dinosaurs, having been replaced by mobile phones and computers.

Francis Kokutse

“I don't need to go the house of my friends to find out something simple; I just make a call or send a text to get the answer. I have saved myself money or the physical pain by walking the distance”, says Issaka Awudu, 25. Unemployed, how does he manage to top up his credit? “I normally keep a little bit of credit and ‘flash’ my friends. Those who do have credit on their phones to make calls, respond”. (‘Flashing’ is a way of making a call and ending it after a few rings to alert whom-ever you are calling to call back or text back so you don't pay for the call).

Less than a decade ago, the premises of what used to be Communication Centres all over Ghana were always jam-packed with young people trying to make calls to friends and relatives. They now all have their own handsets. Anabertha Owusu-Bempah, 24, and a graduate of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in the country's second city, Kumasi, says, “I use the computer every day to communicate with my friends around the world. The world has become a very small place that exists in a box that is placed on a desk”.

She uses email and Facebook to communicate with friends, and chats on Yahoo Messenger. “These are new ways of communicating with our friends and it brings us closer to them and it has helped to improve our understanding of the world as we get to know of issues very quickly”, says Owusu-Bempah. But there's a downside: “You get addicted to it and spend so much time. With the mobile phone, you can't stop a friend who calls from talking”.

Premier League results

Desmond Masoperh, 26, a Higher National Diploma (HND) accounting graduate says, “My mobile phone is always by my side as it enables me to catch up with my friends. I am always online to either chat with friends or use Skype to talk to my cousin in London”. He surfs the internet to catch up with the latest happenings in the United Kingdom's Premier League football. Texting has generated, however, a lot of criticism among older people who claim spelling among younger people is going downhill.

“I have tried hard to stop my children from engaging in text messages with their friends because it destroys their ability to spell properly. I have had students spelling night as *9nt* in an essay in my class”, says Anthony Quarshie, 52, a secondary school teacher in Accra.

For Anita Pinto, 23, a software student from IPMC – an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) institution in Accra – the computer “is just a gadget I like to be with because it is my main link to my friends. I get my emails everyday and it has saved me from the difficult task of going to the post office to post my mails”.

Pinto uses it to chat and simply surf to see what other young people are doing around the world. Like many of her generation who do not own their own computers, she uses the internet cafes that have sprung across the country, but surfing by the minute is costly.

Creating one's own sesame

Souleymane Maâzou

Faced with unemployment, many of Niger's young graduates are setting up their own companies. Fatimata Hassane and Issaka Oumarou both have success stories to tell.

"With the help of my uncle, who lives in France, I opened this tele-centre", says Hassane, aged 26. This girl, who comes from a modest family background and holds a degree in sociology, seems very composed. Today, she is the head of a small company which is performing very well.

At the outset in 2006, she had just one telephone line in her small shop close to the large Niamey market. "I work ten hours a day and bring in daily revenues of around FCFA 20,000 (€30)", she explains. "The work has nothing to do with my sociology course. It is hard to find a job when you leave university and you don't know how long you are going to be unemployed. You have to consider setting yourself up in business."

Using her small amount of savings, Fatima Hassane has now expanded her



Internet café. © Reporters/Jean-Michel Clajot



Young fisherman, Niamey, Niger, July 31, 2009. © AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

company. She has opened a cybercafé with a dozen computers. Thanks to a loan from a local bank, she has also extended her range of business activities. She cheerfully explains: "I've added prepaid cards, mobile telephones and women's, men's and children's clothing to my initial activities".

The young entrepreneur called on some of her fellow students from university – both girls and boys – to work with her. Thirteen people work full-time in this tele-centre, which has been transformed into a 'business centre' within the space of four years. The profits from the business afford them a decent standard of living.

"We will work even harder to ensure we perform even better", pledged young Hassane.

The boy with the magic fingers

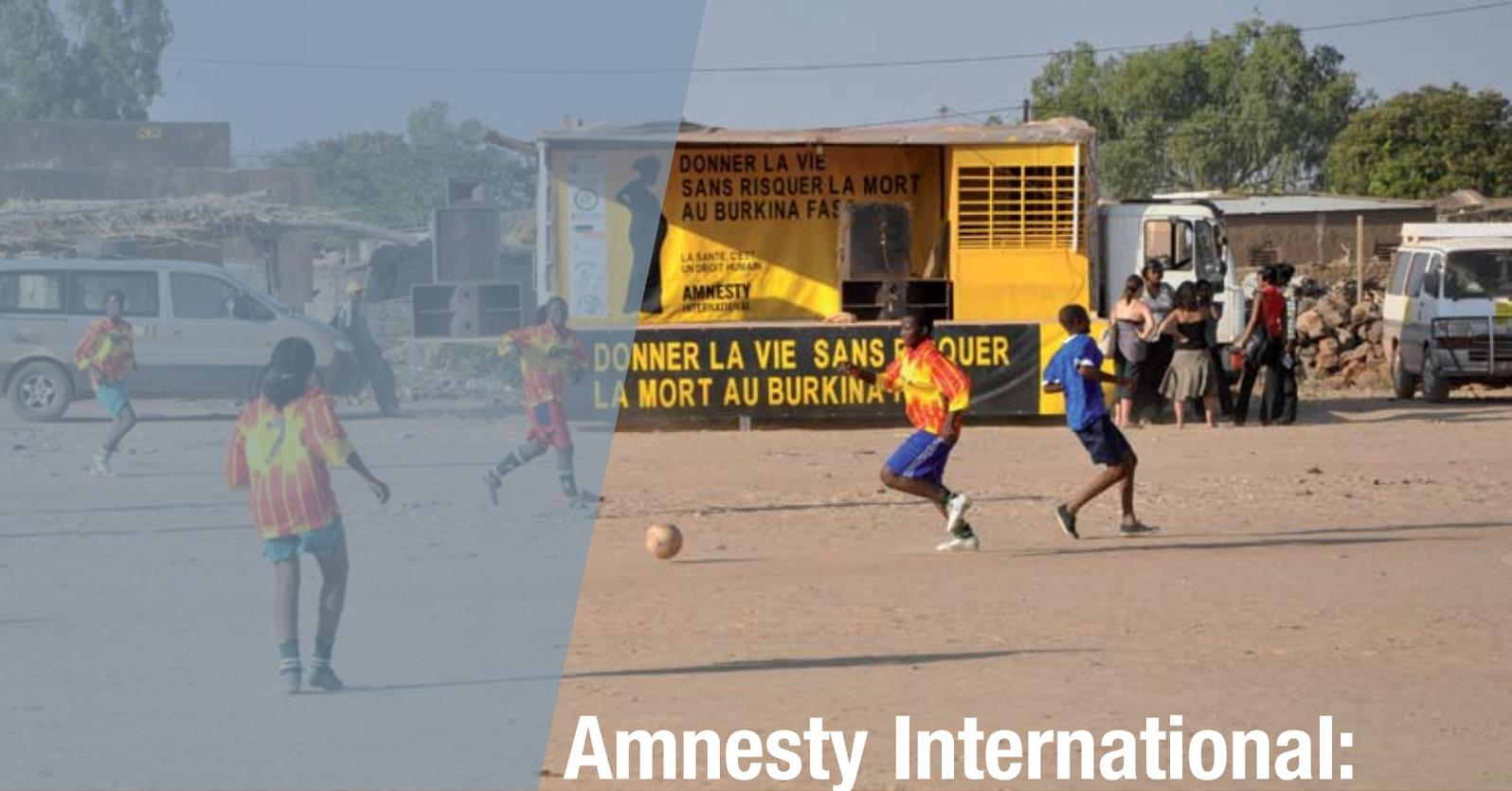
In contrast to Fatima Hassane, young Issaka Oumarou, aged 25, set up his company in the field in which he studied. Holder of an Advanced Technician's Certificate in IT maintenance, he opened a small company specialising in maintenance and after-sales services for IT equipment in 2007.

Tired of having nothing to do all day long, Oumarou left Niger. His journey took him to Benin, where a friend of his older brother advised him to set up in the private sector and lent him some money. "That's how I opened this office", explains Oumarou, the boy with the magic fingers, as he is known to both his friends and customers who are extremely satisfied with his services.

"My customers are companies and government organisations who do not generally haggle over labour charges. The business soon started to yield a profit. That enabled me to buy and sell IT consumables", he continues.

This young man has now escaped the fate of graduates who submit CVs and covering letters to company after company. "I created my own sesame which opened all the doors for me. I am an employer myself now", he jokes.

He employs six young people, including three graduates. He nevertheless remains tight-lipped about the level of income generated by his company.



Amnesty International: “Health is a fundamental right”

Known for its campaigning on behalf of political prisoners, Amnesty International is increasingly expanding its field of action. A particular priority is health, which, as the NGO stresses in a document addressed to the European Commission, should be regarded as “a fundamental right”.

Marie-Martine Buckens

Next September in New York world leaders will be meeting to take stock of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as defined by the United Nations ten years ago. This is the occasion for all parties involved to review their situation and take a stance. The MDGs have become the reference for development aid policy, the major donors adjusting their financing in line with the eight goals set. This represents a major challenge for NGOs whose activities are in part dependent on these multilateral institutions and on the European Union, the latter having already adopted its position on some of the MDGs ahead of the Summit in New York.

Health is a major priority because it covers three of these goals, namely: to reduce child mortality; to improve maternal health; and to combat transmissible diseases. Furthermore, in its reply to the consultation organised by the European Commission – prior to adopting its communication on the

EU’s role in global health ahead of the summit (read separate article) – Amnesty International stresses that “health is a fundamental human right, protected by many regional and international treaties”.

Pivotal role

Amnesty International goes further, stressing that the MDGs as a whole are fundamental rights and that the EU should seize the opportunity of this consultation to state the fact loud and clear. “Human rights defenders, with their understanding of the universal and indivisible nature of rights, are able to make the link between this right to health and other civil, political, social and economic rights”, is Amnesty’s position. The NGO goes on to state that these human rights defenders “can lend an added value by verifying implementation of policy, introducing new ideas and questioning ideas that could impede the realisation of the right to health”. In conclusion, the NGO states that the Commission should explicitly “recognise the role played by civil society organisations and human rights defenders in promoting the right to health (...) and

take measures that enable human rights defenders to pursue their activities without hindrance or fear of reprisals”.

European Commission communication on global health http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/dev-policy-proposals_en.cfm <http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/dev-policy-proposals_en.cfm

A caravan to Burkina Faso

At the end of January, an Amnesty International caravan left Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, to spread the message on maternal health in the country’s principal population centres. This ‘awareness caravan’ follows a similar campaign in Sierra Leone. At the same time, the NGO has submitted a report to the authorities in the county entitled ‘Giving life, risking death’, in which it estimates that 2,000 women die every year in Burkina Faso due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

Civil society in Haiti

To the heart of solutions, with the bare minimum of resources

Hegel Goutier

During the first two or three terrible days after the earthquake of the 12 January, Haitian civil society played a crucial role in first saving the victims of the disaster and then helping them to get their lives back on track. The most widespread form of civil social organisation in the towns is the area committee. Once the foreign NGOs had arrived on the island, with resources appropriate for the task in hand, the actions undertaken by the Haitian civil society organisations were pushed into the background, given that they had neither resources nor equipment at their disposal. Quite simply, what could be done with bare hands alone had already been done.

From this point on, the area committees played a subsidiary role, as a structure for expressing demands and as interlocutors with both state-controlled bodies and foreign NGOs. This situation resulted in a number of the committees

being in demand among the NGOs as intermediaries, but the memory of the pro-Aristide groups was too fresh, and the first reaction of the authorities was one of mistrust, all the more so because some of the members of the committees made certain errors of judgement at this stage.

The press: acting on behalf of civil society

On 12 January, coordination of rescue services was essentially provided by the radio stations, which publicised the locations where immediate intervention was necessary. Radio apart, the Haitian press as a whole was the engine of notable civic action in the crisis, and in tribute two large French media organisations, *Le Courrier International* and *Le Monde*, each dedicated an entire issue to its work.

The focal point

The most visible civil society organisation in Haiti is the FOKAL Foundation, a Creole acronym the letters of which spell "Knowledge and Freedom

Foundation". This body is on one hand an independent group under the patronage of George Soros's Open Society Institute, playing an active role in a wide variety of fields, and on the other an umbrella organisation which works with a large number of Haitian associations, and forms a kind of training centre for civil society in Haiti. As well as undertaking research, FOKAL is also involved in social action and in carrying out projects on the ground, from the construction of schools and libraries throughout the country to the struggle for equal rights for women.

FOKAL also serves as an advisor for a number of overseas NGOs and institutions.

Out in the open

From the end of January on, both Haitian associations and the government had been warning their backers about the expected arrival of torrential rains in March, and consequently the desperate need for tents. By the end of February, 40,000 tents had been set up, when the number required was at least 200,000. Not a few people wondered what had happened to the millions of euros collected around the world by, among others, high-profile figures from the entertainment world such as Angelina Jolie and George Clooney. The Minister for Communications in the Haitian government, Marie-Laurence Josselyn Lasségue, who at the time happened to be in Brussels, explained that the money raised by collections was made available as quickly as possible to the NGOs of which the figures were patrons, and that these organisations had prioritised spending on those areas which they were specialists in. Tents, then, were clearly not a priority for all of these bodies.

Civil society organisations in Europe have highlighted the importance of learning lessons from this situation, and have launched an appeal to the EU*, stressing that civic groups in Haiti should always be the central focus of any measure taken and should not be left exposed as before, as it is only with their help that European NGOs can use their abilities to the fullest degree.

* Signed by the CoEH (Coordination between Europe and Haiti), the Prisma Association (Netherlands) and ZOA Refugee Care (Netherlands)



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Lake Tanganyika. © istock

Lake Tanganyika: a hub for trade

Alfred Sayila*

After more than 700 years of providing livelihood and sustenance to people who live along its shoreline, Lake Tanganyika is today a trading hub for several countries in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of Southern Africa.

According to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Tanganyika which is embedded in the east of the continent is not only important to the region's peace and security but is an economic lifeline for surrounding countries. Every year trade worth more than US\$5.8bn in imports and exports passes through it. The beneficiaries are not only the countries surrounding the lake like Tanzania, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda

and Burundi, but Southern Africa as a whole. Only recently, president Rupiah Banda of Zambia, chairman of ICGLR, urged a summit of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa in February 2010 to work together in the interest of Lake Tanganyika's development.

Such political support of the GLR is likely to add more impetus and value to trade on Lake Tanganyika, which has been on the increase for the past ten years, from a paltry US\$900M in 1999 to its current high. Statistics show that trade between the Great Lakes Region and the rest of Southern Africa passing through the lake in 2005/2006

further because of the rise in intra-regional trade which is greatly benefiting member countries in the GLR, Southern African Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC) and COMESA itself. "I cannot over-emphasise the importance of the lake to trade in the region. It's actually a major artery for the economy and trade", he said. He added that the establishment of the FTA had helped to increase regional trade which has in turn raised the standard of living for many people and profits of firms that thrive on the resources of the lake. "We are focused on strategy, trade and investment", he said.

"The lake is a major artery for the economy and trade"

Sindiso Ngwenya

COMESA statistics show that intra-trade for countries in the GLR and Southern Africa in 2000 was approximately US\$3bn, but rose to almost US\$8.6bn in 2007, before dropping to around US\$6.2bn in 2008/2009 in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. Trade on Lake Tanganyika has more or less mirrored this trend. Both the *Exploitation du Port des Bujumbura (EPB)* and *Agence Maritime Internationale (AMI)* who operate on the lake verify that for the past five years transportation of goods on the lake has increased by between 25-30 per cent.

The Mpulungu Corridor

Every year between 250,000-300,000 containerised traffic criss-crosses Lake Tanganyika from key harbours to inland depots. "We have a lot of ship traffic from one entry port to a receiving terminus along the shore", said an official with AMI. He said a lot of lake traffic is between Kigoma, Tanzania in East Africa and Bujumbura, Burundi in Central Africa. He reiterated that not only have ship movements on the lake increased but trade as well!

For example, harbours on the lake are connected to various road and rail routes. The Mpulungu port in Zambia is interlinked to a major highway that feeds into the famous Tanzania-Zambia Railways (TAZARA). This has made the Mpulungu Corridor through the

harbour on the southern tip of the lake a busy trade route handling 50,000-60,000 tonnes of all sorts of import/export cargo ranging from, inter alia, cement, fuel, other petroleum products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, steel, sugar and coffee.

Other routes that connect the central/northern parts of the Congolese port of Kalemie before interconnecting with Bujumbura and Kigoma, have resulted in the creation of a trading triangle for Eastern and Central African states in the Great Lakes Region. The triangle handles more than 100,000 tonnes of cargo every month.

Maritime traffic on the lake goes in all directions of the Southern African region although imports tend to be higher than exports most of the time, by a ratio of 1:3. In the 2008/2009 period, imports passing through the lake were worth about US\$4.8bn compared to exports at US\$1bn. The trend is not expected to change in the short-term, despite the increase in intra-trade. Based on these staggering statistics, trade traffic on Lake Tanganyika has shown an exponential increase despite various economic shortcomings. This can be seen from infrastructural development taking place in some of the GLR countries. Take, for example, Zambia which with partners has jointly embarked on the construction of a fuel export jetty at Mpulungu port and is developing Nsumbu harbour as a fully-fledged port in the near future. Similar developments are underway in other countries of the region.

Keeping biodiversity

Apart from bulk cargo trade, Lake Tanganyika is a major tourist attraction, generating more than US\$3bn and an additional US\$2.5bn from commercial fishing. Fishing has actually been the mainstay for many people and firms located along Lake Tanganyika. This African lake has one of the rarest fresh water species and fish of different kinds not found in other parts of the world. It is hence an ideal place for development of an all-round regional fishing business. Thanks to the Tanganyika Biodiversity Project and Global Environmental Facility, industrial pollution on the lake is kept to a minimum while its ecosystem and biodiversity are preserved.



Rupiah Banda. © Reporters

was about US\$3.1bn. Annual trade increases of 4.8 per cent are forecast following the rehabilitation of some ports, installation of new equipment, the building of new ports and, not least, the establishment of a Free Trade Area (FTA) and Customs Union for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

In an interview with *The Courier*, COMESA Secretary General Sindiso Ngwenya, said he expected trade on Lake Tanganyika to increase even



The Austrian Tyrol

Right in the centre,
yet completely separate

Hegel Goutier

Tyrol, one of the nine Länder (States) of Austria, has been part of the nation since the middle of the fourteenth century, and yet at all times it has jealously guarded its unique character. There is no doubt that this is largely due to the geography of the region, with its valleys imprisoned by high mountains, which has made it more of a place to travel through than one to settle in. But it is this too that has allowed Tyrol to benefit from the travellers, armies and wandering sovereigns that have passed through, while at the same time protecting itself from any cosmopolitan influence. This has also enabled the region to flourish economically, despite its lack of natural resources.

For six centuries at the very least, from the late thirteenth century until the end of the First World War, Austria has, under the Habsburg dynasty, been situated at the very core of power in Europe. From the time when Charles V declared that the sun never set on his empire, Austria was at the centre of this great dominion.

At the heart of the empire

In the first century A.D., Rome extended its hold on the course of the river Danube by the march to the east towards what would later be known as Ostarrichi, and in the second century, this land began to acquire still greater importance, as it became the northern frontier of the Roman Empire. In the third century, Ostarrichi became the official name of what is now Austria. From the tenth century onwards, the country was united, first under the control of the Babenberg family. This dynasty was to suffer defeat at the hands of the Magyars, and power was seized by the kings of Bohemia, who were themselves supplanted by Rudolph of Habsburg, crowned emperor in the year 1273. Meanwhile, in 1027, the German emperors had decided to set up a special form of government for the "territory amid the mountains", a name used to refer to the Tyrol. The year 1180 saw the construction of the first bridge over the Inn River, with the resulting town taking the name Innsbruck. In 1420, under Duke Frederick II, the official residence of the Habsburg dynasty was moved to Innsbruck, where it was to remain until the middle of the seventeenth century.

Austria was now at the centre, the engine of history. The country became larger, and its internal administration was reinforced. Frederick II was no man to beat about the bush, declaring that now "the whole world belongs to Austria" (Alles Erdreich ist Österreich untertan), as was summarised in the letters AEIOU. This state of affairs was partly the result of wars waged, but was due above all to a network of alliances established through marriage, of which the birth of Charles V was perhaps the ultimate example. Charles came to rule over the Holy Roman Empire in Germany, Spain, Naples, Sicily, and Sardinia, as well as the territories in the Americas, and this empire was to last until the end of the eighteenth century.

Epic saga of the Tyrolean country farmer

In the course of the war against France from 1792 to 1815, the emperor of Austria suffered a string of defeats and was forced to give up his titles of emperor of the Romans and leader of the Holy Roman Empire in Germany.

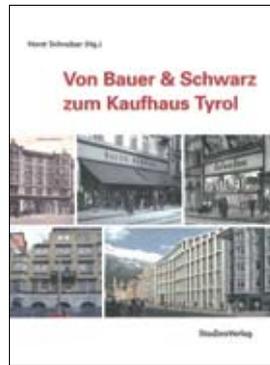
The stage was then set for Tyrol to play a part once more, and to write another page of history that would consolidate



Innsbruck Cathedral. © Hegel Goutier

its identity as a unique region with a separate role. In 1809, a simple country farmer, Andreas Hofer, accompanied by his Tyrolean partisans, was to shake the very foundations of Napoleon's formidable strike force for almost two years. Napoleon was the victor in the end, of course, and Andreas Hofer was betrayed and then captured and executed. He was soon enshrined among the legends of the Tyrol, however, and even today his actions are still frequently evoked. Napoleon went on to marry the daughter of the emperor whom he had defeated, and Austria, which had to bend its will to that of the greater power, came to regain the upper hand thanks in particular to the famous diplomat, Prince Metternich, whose work enabled his country's troops to return to Paris in 1814 and, at the Congress of Vienna in the same year, to recover a position of strength which allowed it to rule once more over Europe. It was, nevertheless, forced to deal with a series of revolts, such as those which drove Metternich out of Italy in 1848.

Metternich was succeeded by Franz Joseph, who became king of Hungary too, thus creating the Austro-Hungarian empire, over which he was emperor for sixty-eight years, until the First World War. Sustained economic growth and



a dynamic artistic scene in this period provided impetus and strengthened the state from the inside, but this did not prevent its relative decline at an international level.

The assassination of Franz Joseph's nephew, the archduke Franz Ferdinand, in Sarajevo in 1914 led to the outbreak of the First World War. The Austro-Hungarian monarchy was thrown into turmoil, and, with the lives of a million and a half of its subjects lost, it was not to survive the War. In the

period between the two World Wars, Hitler declared the Anschluss, or the annexation of Austria, but after the Second World War, the country quickly became prosperous once more, joining the European Union in 1995.

Today Austria is one of the wealthiest countries of the European Union, and Tyrol is in turn one of the most prosperous regions of Austria. Tourism plays a central role in its economy, with industry in a rather distant second place.

The light and dark of Tyrolean history



Horst Schreiber: "Tyrol has always seen itself as a democracy... but in the times of the Nazis, it acted like the rest of Austria". © Hegel Goutier

Horst Schreiber teaches modern history at Innsbruck University. He spoke to *The Courier* about his book, 'Von Bauer & Schwarz zum Kaufhaus Tyrol', a study of Tyrolean politics between the mid-19th century and the present day, including its periods of darkness. In it he traces the fortunes of a large store owned by a Jewish family as it changes names and hands several times under the shadow of rampant anti-Semitism.*

Interview.

"I trace the history of a Jewish minority in Tyrol and the reaction of the majority to this group. In the 19th century Tyrol was distinctive for its marked opposi-

tion to industrialisation at a time when it needed migrant labour originating from other areas of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. These included Jews with their ideas of modernism. The very Catholic local nobles and peasants resisted this change and were afraid of the migration, and subsequently, of religions other than Catholicism. It is this that gave rise to anti-Semitism."

"Tyrol has always seen itself as a democracy because it fought for its freedom against the Bavarians and the French under its hero, Andreas Hofer."

"At the time of the Nazis, the Tyrol nonetheless acted like the rest of Austria. After the war it looked beyond its own borders, to Vienna. Since the 1980s there has been a subtle shift into line with contemporary attitudes elsewhere. But this does not mean that the authorities in Tyrol are going to support the historians in their wide ranging research into collaboration. The support the authorities gave to the publication of my book is not something that can be taken for granted."

* Andrea Sommer and Habbes Schlosser-auger worked together on two chapters.

Tyrol: One of Europe's more stable economies

Interview with Eugen Sprenger, Acting Mayor of Innsbruck

Eugen Sprenger is the First Vice-Mayor of Innsbruck in charge, among other things, of social affairs. When The Courier visited Tyrol he was acting Mayor. Social affairs are of the highest priority in Austria and especially in the Tyrol region. Sprenger has a reputation of being close to his constituency.

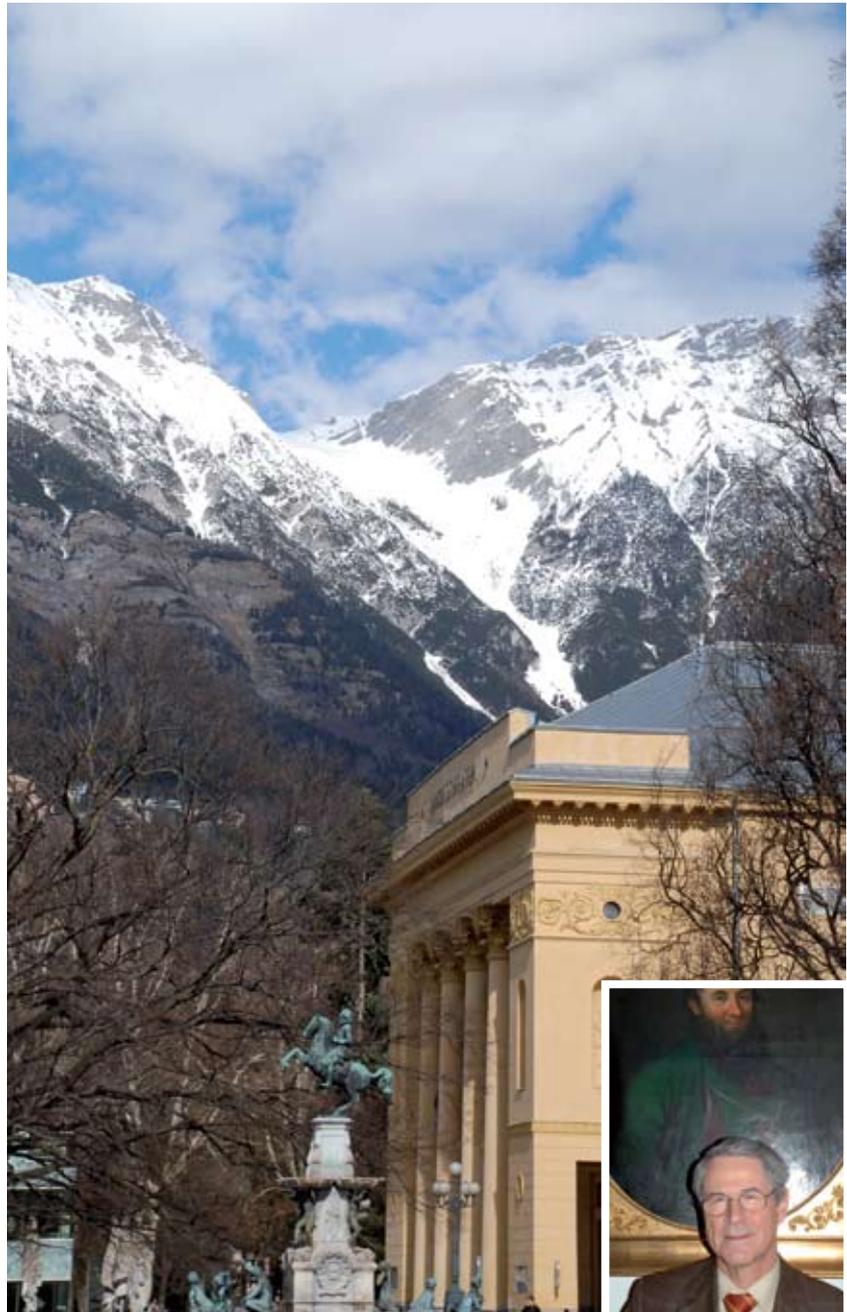
Hegel Goutier

Eugen Sprenger – I am very close to the people. We fully take care of 400 children who cannot be looked after by their parents. About 5,000 people receive social allowances and 1,300 older people live in homes for the elderly or in sheltered accommodation. There are a further 1,200 elderly people who are able to live in their own houses and are still being taken care of. We do not only pay them a living allowance, but their rent too. We compare very favourably with other countries in this respect.

The Courier – How is Tyrol's economy faring?

I think we have quite a stable economic situation due to our economic structure compared to the whole of Austria, even to Germany. About one third of the population lives off tourism, one third depends on the industrial sector and one third earns income from small and medium sized enterprises. This gives us a degree of stability. Of course, we also have some redundancies and joblessness. The economic crisis did not actually cause a downturn in the tourism sector. Figures for the overall number of overnight stays have actually gone up.

We have problems in the industrial sector since we only have four or five major industries. The biggest problems were with *Swarovski* (crystal makers) and *Metalwerk* (metalwork). There was also some slowdown – but not significant – small and medium-sized businesses.



Innsbruck. © Hegel Goutier

Eugen Sprenger. © Hegel Goutier

How does this compare with Austria as a whole?

I think the situation in Eastern Austria is even more dramatic than here, especially in regions where there is a lot of industry; Vienna or Linz. They have

different economic structures and less tourism except for the Alpine regions. This is why they have suffered from more unemployment and over the next two to three years will feel the economic pinch more deeply.



Crystal piece by Swarovski. © Hegel Goutier



The Inn River in Innsbruck, the heart of the city. © Hegel Goutier

What is Innsbruck's appeal to the outsider?

Innsbruck is the heart of the Alps. We have beautiful landscapes and our tourism is very well developed, both for winter and summertime visitors. Annually, Tyrol registers 43M overnight stays; more than for the whole of Greece or the whole of Switzerland.

Innsbruck is the heart of Tyrol's tourism industry. Its city centre dates back to the time of the Renaissance and in just half an hour you are in Italy or Germany. It has interesting and beautiful buildings. The whole city centre is a World Heritage site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). We stage a high level culture festival and have eight theatres putting on plays, dance and operetta-opera.

Innsbruck also has the label of a city of sport. We have the second largest congress centre in Austria. In 2002, in Melbourne, Australia, we were awarded the title of World's Best Congress Centre. Our university hospital and university with its 350 years of tradition are

both well-known. We also have a huge number of museums.

How do you explain the fact that Austria will not achieve its target of 0.59 per cent of GNI to be spent on development by 2010?

This is not a question for us, but rather for the federal government of Austria. Of course, it would be good to keep up the level of development aid to African and other developing countries or even increase it, but it's a question of budgetary decisions in these difficult economic times.

How would you describe the Tyrolean soul?

It is not that easy to describe the Tyrolean soul because of the settlement of different populations in the region and hence, differences in the mentality of the people. Broadly speaking, Tyrolean people are very financially-minded but at the same time, open to other influences. People are attached to their area and the landscape, to their soil, to the piece of land on which they live. Tyrolean people are very hard working, intelligent and efficacious.

Cooperation



© Hegel Goutier

Well structured but some way to go

Austria's cooperation policy is defined by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (MFA) which draws up three-year programmes, implementation of which is entrusted to the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). It works in cooperation with the other federal ministries, the federal states (Länder), municipalities, Austrian development banks, NGOs and companies.

It is important to note that the entire government is responsible for cooperation in view of its special collegial nature. There is no real head; the prime minister acts only as a *primus inter pares*, or at most a coordinator who does not even personally decide on each minister's portfolio as this is determined by parliament. When necessary, the prime minister must call on parliament, while the minister concerned remains without a portfolio while waiting for an ad hoc law. Austrian cooperation policy partners priority countries, including ACP states; Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Burkina Faso and Cape Verde.

There is currently tension between the government and the NGOs because the latter were not consulted on the next three-year cooperation programme. Another reason is the decrease in Austrian aid from 0.50 per cent of GNI in 2007 to 0.43 per cent in 2008, outside the 0.59 per cent range which the country committed itself to as an indispensable for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

NGOs in Austria and Tyrol

'South Wind' and 'Light for the World' fight aid cutbacks



Ines Zanella, regional director of Südwind: "We are very concerned about the cutbacks in state aid for development in Austria". © Hegel Goutier

Hegel Goutier

Südwind is an Austrian NGO which is well established in the region of Tyrol. The organisation works tirelessly on the street, in public markets, universities and schools of all levels and lobbies political institutions to make its voice heard and increase awareness of the problems of poor countries in today's globalised world. Like other civil society groups, Südwind is concerned about the reduction in Austria's development aid budget.

Ines Zanella, the organisation's regional director in Tyrol, spoke to *The Courier* about the situation: "Like other NGOs in the development sector, we rely on financial support from state institu-

tion. In the case of our branch here in the Tyrol, this support represents 89 per cent of our budget, with the rest coming from the European Union.

We organise workshops on world trade for teachers at all levels, from kindergarten and nursery school up to university level. It is our collaborative ventures with the universities that enable us to call on the qualified staff needed to organise this work. As regards certain topics, our library is often even more extensive than those of some universities, and this is why its level of regular attendance is so high. Südwind regularly launches major campaigns, such as the Fair Trade initiative, which might take place in the street, in supermarkets, or in other locations."

Lack of commitment

The organisation is very concerned about the cutbacks in state aid for development in Austria, which have also been singled out for criticism by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Zanella points out that "the authorities have not shown enough commitment as far as development issues are concerned, and fall back on their claim that these issues are not a priority for the local population. According to the Austrian government, this is to be expected, given the economic situation in the world at the moment".

NGOs should have a bigger say in development strategies – Johannes Trimmel

Johannes Trimmel, from Light for the World, an NGO which is active in a number of developing countries on behalf of the disabled and the visually impaired in particular, has another criticism to make regarding the Austrian

government. In an interview with *The Courier*, he confided that "what we do is talk to the Foreign Ministers and to the ADA (Austrian Development Agency) about projects to help the disabled. Like other organisations, we play the role of contractor partners for their projects, but when it comes down to strategy and to major decisions, such as the planning of the next three-year programme for the country's development aid policy, which has to be presented to parliament, the NGOs play no part at this stage, despite the fact that the review document of the most recent project stipulates that they ought to be involved in the process. We must therefore appeal to the government to fulfil its commitments in this area".

Light for the World is particularly active in the ACP nations of Ethiopia, Mozambique, Burkina Faso and Sudan, and to a lesser extent in Rwanda and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Sudan, the organisation is working to integrate visually impaired people into society, with programmes to prevent and treat blindness, and to rehabilitate the disabled, helping them to play an active role in everyday life.

Innsbruck: where the shadows shine more than the light

© Hegel Goutier

Hegel Goutier

A long way from the image of rural austerity with which Tyrol is sometimes saddled outside its frontiers, the region's capital, Innsbruck, is a city of high culture, a place which invites the visitor to wander around aimlessly, in a reverie of romanticism. This is a city where in winter the atmosphere is sometimes even warmer and more laden with fantasy than in summer.

In winter, the ring of mountains that surrounds each valley seems to tighten its hold. The inhabitants of what is, in spite of its small-town appearance, something of a cultural metropolis, take flight. And not only at the weekend. Each day as twilight begins to fall on the city they set out to scale the heights of the neighbourhoods and villages surrounding the city, or simply to look out into the distance. The city is a real hive of activity, with people climbing right from the centre of town, hanging onto the walls of the valley before taking refuge at night in the restaurants and country-style taverns of every neighbourhood.

Some people even ski down from these snow-covered mountain pastures right to their homes. Others prefer just to stroll along the length of the uproarious main thoroughfare, the Maria

Theresien Strasse. It is itself a compendium of Austria's architectural dynamism, blending state-of-the-art glass structures with the most refined classicism, not to mention the fantasies of the local form of art nouveau, 'Jugendstil', with its wonderful stained-glass windows and graphite work.

A beautiful escape

Come the weekend, the towering mountains become an obsession. The most prized of the peaks, and one of the most spellbinding, is the Hafelekar mountain, now easily accessible via a new superfast cable car, which is itself a futurist work by the architect Zaha Hadid. The cable car links the Hungerburg area first with a lower station, where the views over the city are already spectacular, and then with another, right up to the highest point at over 2,300 metres, looking out over alpine massifs as far as the horizon. You can descend from there on a choice of ski pistes, from thoroughly safe to as adventurous as they come.

Others prefer to head towards the picturesque village of St. Sigmund, to slide around in the winter sunshine, or laze on a Tyrolean luge, sharing in the favourite pastime of local children. This little trip costs them no more than the price of their public transport season ticket. For tourists, it is included in the cost of the Innsbruck City Card, which grants access to all the city's museums

and historical monuments, as well as the tourist attractions in the countryside around. The venue of the Winter Olympics, at Bergisel, offers another easy escape from the city and a stunning view of Innsbruck and its surroundings, in addition to the most thrilling springboard for ski jumping.

The very laziest of visitors, on the other hand, can stay in Innsbruck and just stroll along the banks of the river Inn. The whole of the lower town cries out



© Hegel Goutier

to be visited, from the Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof) to the palace of the Habsburgs. Neither should the innumerable museums be forgotten, in particular the Tiroler Volkskunstmuseum (Museum of Tyrolean Folk Art), even if you normally avoid this type of place. In Innsbruck there is no room for mere vapid decoration, or for the condescending attitudes of the aesthete. What there is here is centuries of beautiful art, and the refined skills of the valleys' artisans are in evidence everywhere, such as, for example, in the Hofkirche (Court Church), with its extravagant mausoleum of Maximilian I.

A cornucopia of emotions

It is quite likely that the visitor to Innsbruck will be lucky enough to chance upon one of the city's wonderful festivals, such as the Osterfestival Tirol (www.osterfestival.at), with its

thoroughly eclectic programme, or perhaps a specialised festival like the Tanzsommer ('Dance Summer', www.tanzsommer.at), all of which offer a very tempting array of attractions.

The refined skills of the valleys' artisans are in evidence everywhere

The city's art galleries, too, are of very high quality, and there are a huge number considering the population is only a little more than 100,000. Some of these galleries are groundbreaking, too: the Taxispalais (www.galerieimtaxispalais.at), for example, under the management of Beate Ermacora, would certainly not be out of place in the largest metropolis.

When *The Courier* was passing through, this gallery was showing what has probably been one of the most original exhibitions of the season in Europe. Kirstine

Roepstorff's "Illuminating Shadows" is, at the same time, a presentation of individual pieces, and a display where each group – paintings, sculptures, games of light – is an installation in itself. The artist has incorporated into her collection a number of traditional African works of art, in a kind of marriage or one-to-one encounter in the midst of which the viewer loses all awareness of the origins of these pieces, so intense is the dialogue between them. The projection of the real or virtual gaseous filters which cover her paintings, the shadows that are transposed from one piece onto another, and the mechanisms of light where all the artifice behind them is forgotten, leave one in a state of wonder and awaken a cornucopia of sensual pleasure for the eyes and a whole gamut of emotions. Could this perhaps be a work that will prove to be the harbinger of a romanticism of the future?

Tyrol's Soul

Hegel Goutier

Way back in time, in the Middle Ages, the first influx of people settled in Tyrol. The region only saw a second wave of settlement in the 1960s (Ed. due to the development of tourism and industry), explained the historian Horst Schreiber to *The Courier*. In those intervening centuries, Tyrolean society had, by the force of circumstances, no other option but to rely on its own resources.

Paradoxically, many figures from the world of the arts and culture take the view that the contemporary art of the region has no connection with the area's traditional art. Such is the opinion of the gallery owner Beate Ermacora, of the Taxispalais gallery (Galerie im Taxispalais). For Astrid Gostner, a former gallery owner, however, this insistence on denying any link is proof of a certain ambiguity in the attitudes of the Tyroleans as regards their heritage, which could be described as both pride and a kind of complex. The ceramic artist Isabella Mangold shares the same view, though it is true that she is only a second-generation Tyrolean.

Are you a 'Zugereister'?

Are you a 'Zugereister'? For Emmanuel Rukondo, a Tyrolean of African origin, this question is the response to another question. Is it possible to become Tyrolean? Is it possible to get onto a vehicle which is already moving? When a true Tyrolean is asked that question, the word 'Zugereister' is bound to crop



© Hegel Goutier

up. A 'Zugereister' is a term used for outsiders who have come to live in the region, but are not considered "one of us", and this word has passed into the local vernacular. "'Zugereister' is a word which whilst can be interpreted as discriminatory can also be used in an elegant way. It is even used of someone from a nearby village." Rukondo adds, "For the Tyrolean, it is first and foremost all about the family, the village, the party, and then the people close to these entities. I also feel I am part of this

land, and I love it. My wife is Tyrolean, and my children too. The one thing I would say is that the Tyroleans are frank and direct to the point of sounding coarse and unrefined".

So what would a Tyrolean employer do if you applied for a job, and were competing with someone from Vienna, or from somewhere else in Europe? "If all else were equal, it would be me that the Tyrolean would take on. I am closer to him." That much is quite clear.

Tyroleans of African origin: the “white wolves”

Hegel Goutier

On more than one occasion, Emmanuel Rukundo, born in Rwanda but a Tyrolean by adoption, has stretched out a line to link Austria and Africa, the two poles of his working life and of his heart. His consultancy business is active in Rwanda, Kenya and in Europe.

Rukundo arrived in Tyrol eighteen years ago, washed up amid the agonies of genocide. From that time on, he has travelled regularly between his main base, Innsbruck, and the various places where he does business. He started off by using the expertise he had acquired in Europe to set up a consultancy business for European and African companies keen to expand their range of operations into other continents. Choosing to work with his Tyrolean backer E²M GMBH Austria, along with its Italian counterpart E²M SUCH Italy, he also formed a partnership with a Rwandan consultancy agency which already enjoyed a high reputation in the local market. And so the business, E²M East Africa, was set up with four stakeholders; two from Europe and two from Africa. But this is by no means the only link that Rukundo has woven between the two continents. He spoke to *The Courier* about his interesting personal journey, and the triangle of development he has created between companies, universities and international agencies.

A diverse career

“For a long time, I was involved in two main activities. On the one hand, I was an employee of the Chamber of Commerce, and I also worked for the Workers’ Chambers as an advisor on their training courses for young people, forging connections between schools

and the business world. Since 2003, I have also run a business consultancy here in Innsbruck specialising in investment and financing.

A short while after this, I moved to East Africa in order to set up business links between East African companies, in Rwanda and Kenya first of all, and Austria, Germany and the Alto Adige/Südtirol region (the Tyrolean region which forms part of Italy). I have just come back from working in Africa on another of my projects, a synergetic venture involving business, universities and development agencies which is supported by the University of Liechtenstein and the Association of Private Sector Companies of Südtirol, and in the near future I am going to initiate contacts with Austrian companies which operate in China.

More and more African investment in Europe

So far European companies with a presence in Africa have not dedicated a great deal of thought to exchanges of technology and capital. Right now, I am negotiating on behalf of African businesses that want to invest in Europe. There are going to be more and more of these in years to come.

My career path? I studied Humanities, and did Latin and Sciences for my baccalauréat. Then I did a degree in Philosophy and Arts, and passed the competitive exam for secondary education in the Congo (DRC). After that, I took a degree in Theology at the Leopold Franz Jozef University in Innsbruck. But then I gave up the idea of becoming a priest, and instead started a training course in consultancy for financing and investment, which I then complemented by passing a State exam which enabled me to work in the field of the liberal professions.”

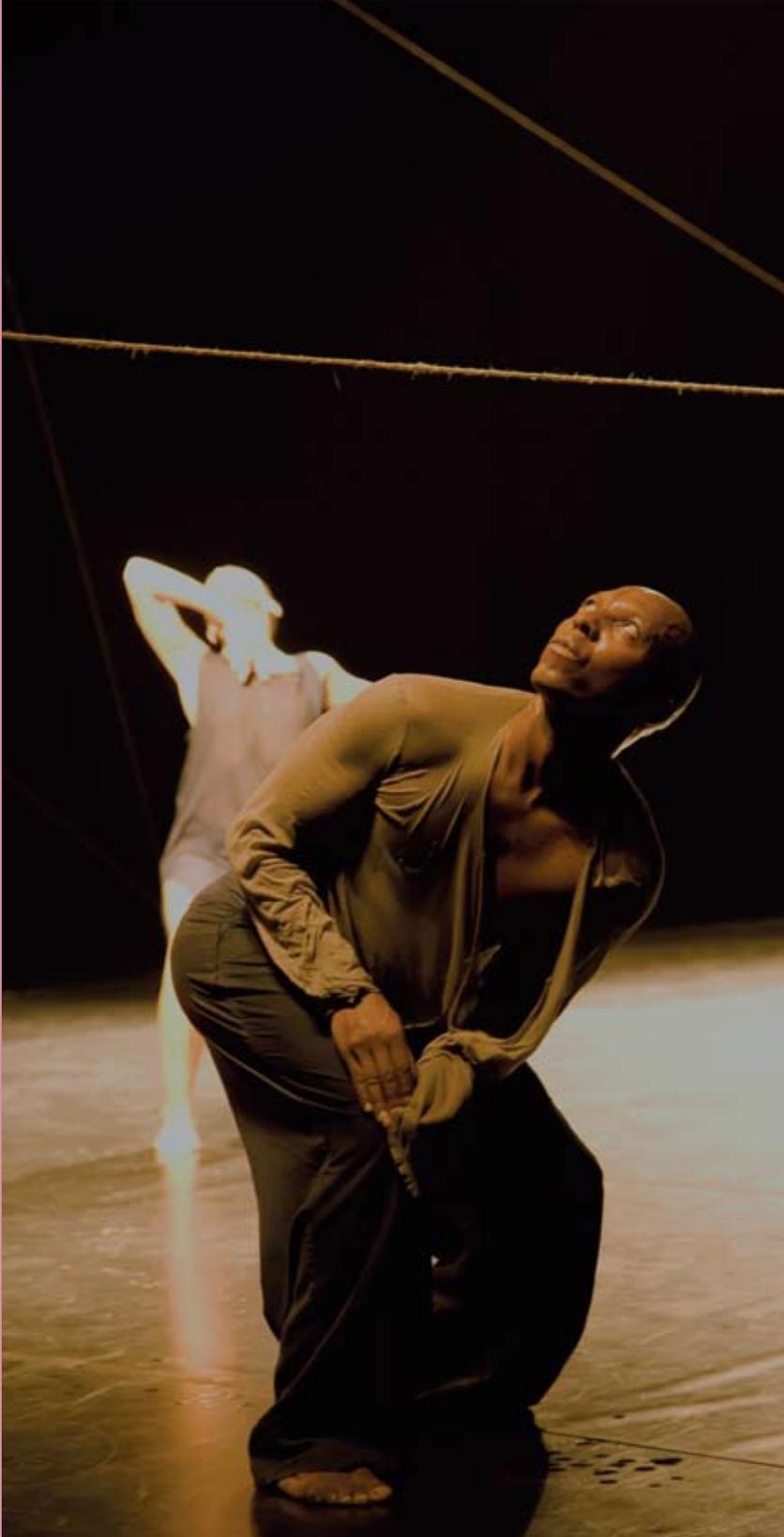


Emmanuel Rukundo, African-Tyrolean.
© Hegel Goutier



Poster of the Afro DJ Festival in Innsbruck.
© Hegel Goutier

At the forefront of the other Tyroleans of African origin, known in Innsbruck as the “white wolves”, is Bella Bello Bitugu, originally from Ghana and a lecturer in Education and Sociology at the University of Innsbruck. Among the numerous significant roles Bitugu plays, he is none other than Austria’s voice in the international ‘Development through Football’ initiatives.



‘SAN’ or the universal man by **Vincent Mantsoe**

Backed by music that is mesmerising and rhythmic, interspersed with verses by the Sufi poet Rumi, South African choreographer Vincent Mantsoe, flanked by four other dancers, will transport you for an hour with the San, the Bushmen, living witnesses of a long human journey that started over 20,000 years ago.

Marie-Martine Buckens

It is almost 10 p.m. when Vincent Matsoe enjoys a last drink with his dancers on the terrace of the Market Theatre, which is home not just to performance spaces but also has a superb restaurant, not far from the ‘Dance Factory’ where he had performed just two hours previously. Before returning to Newtown, a cultural district of Johannesburg, Vincent Mantsoe had driven his parents back home to Soweto, after they had come to see him dance. “At the end of the performance, my mother was in tears”, he told us, happy and clearly moved. “My parents gave me a lot of support”, he continues; “although when I was young, my father wanted me to be a footballer, the only way for a black to make it during the

Vincent Mantsoe performing ‘SAN’. © Xavier Rouchaud

apartheid era. My mother was, and still is, a 'sangoma', a traditional healer. It is through her, through her rituals, that I learnt rhythm and dance, and through my grandmother too. She always told me: "try to remain open culturally", and said it was a way of knowing myself better. It was difficult for me; there were so many things in my head".

Performing remains a challenge

But Vincent Mantsoe continued on his chosen path, shaping his early choreographies with five other young dancers in the Joy Dancers group. "My big break was to be able to attend courses by Sylvia Glasser in 1990. She became my mentor. At the time, it was hard for a black to dance in a studio with whites. But, in my opinion, we all have a mixture of origins, and what mattered was the spirituality that I saw in each person. That was the way I was brought up," Mantsoe found that universal spirituality during his many travels. Some places taught him more than others: "Africa first of all, as well as Asian countries. In South Korea, and especially in Japan, I was struck by the similarity between

their dances and ours; their spirituality was so close to our own".

In 1996 came his first recognition: the young choreographer won an award in France at 25 years of age. France is where he would later meet his wife, also a dancer, and where he has lived for the last two years with their two children, a seven-year-old girl and a 17-month-old son. That doesn't stop him performing regularly in his homeland, as well as in other African countries. He will soon be in Angola, and in Benin in November. Nevertheless, the young choreographer believes that dance is not sufficiently appreciated in Africa. "Here in South Africa, there are not many festivals devoted to dance. People in South Africa are not brought up to go to the theatre or to a dance performance." The choreographer is critical too: "what is more, I don't see anything very new, I don't even feel the same passion; I don't feel any inspiration, often I find the expression is very 'peripheral'". There needed to be a show like 'SAN' to understand what Vincent Mantsoe means by inspiration, as well as by strength and beauty of movement, backed by music that entrals you with its choreographic quality. That said, the South African choreographer recognises that performing anywhere remains a challenge, although he has the good fortune to be in contact with companies, and with the private sector, and teaching.

"We come from the same source, and we are faced with the same struggles"

Going back to this evening's show, it is the second and final performance on South African soil before the group's return to France, and a solo performance the next day. "What is SAN'? In devising this choreography, I had a very important political as well as a cultural

motivation. I am black, but the other dancers are not. I did not want it that way. I am talking about the survival of the San (Ed. the Bushmen – see also our feature on South Africa). They are all black, but we all are, we come from the same source. All of us, like the San, have been attacked, we have been decimated to some extent or another. We come from the same source, and we are faced with the same struggles."

Cultural connection

There are five of them on stage, at the start their heads hanging from strings, the strings being the sole scenery. They start from the ceiling, cross the hall from one side to the other, like paths – like the 'song lines' of Australia's Aborigines – and a string separating the stage from the audience. Gradually, these bodies will start to move, sometimes trembling, with verve, searching, sometimes weary. And that is the start of an hour's journey, our journey, the journey of humanity.

The music by Shahram Nazeri, Iranian singer and master of Sufi music, accompanies the piece, carries it, and itself conveys, in long pauses, the verses of the great poet Rumi. So Africa joins forces with Asia. "This music is very important; it conveys meaning and creates a cultural connection", adds Mantsoe fervently. "The instruments too; the type of violin used is very similar to the type found in West Africa today, a violin that started out in Africa, and which you find, in modified forms, in Kazakhstan or in Japan."

It is getting late. Mantsoe leaves us with one last, beaming smile, happy to have been able to share his passion. His silhouette, strangely frail and slight, moves away down the street. On stage, he is a giant exuding strength, with a piercing gaze that speaks volumes.



'SAN'. © Xavier Rouchaud



Kenyan Wildlife wardens keep a watch on confiscated elephant tusks at the Kenyan wildlife offices in Nairobi, Kenya (2009). © Reporters/AP

New moves to stamp out the ivory trade

An African Elephant Coalition is calling on the European Union to oppose any move in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) that would give a green light to exports of African ivory which, it says, would further put in peril the African elephant. The ministerial meeting of CITES in Qatar, 13-25 March, was expected to look at requests from Tanzania and Zambia to permit “one off” exports. The move has re-opened the “deeply divisive debate” on conservation of the continent’s elephant populations, says Shelley Waterland, Programmes Manager of the UK-based wildlife protection charity, the Born Free Foundation.

Debra Percival

An international ban on the trade, placing the African Elephant in CITES category I, was originally imposed in 1989 following a decade of uncontrolled elephant slaughter which reduced the population of Africa’s elephants from 1.3M to just 600,000. “The ban was successful. Elephant poaching was significantly reduced and prices of ivory on the black-market slumped”, says Waterland.

Nations have since chipped away at the ban, she says. Elephant populations in four Southern African countries (Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa and Namibia) have been downlisted to CITES Appendix II enabling trade in ivory if approved by CITES parties. In 1999, almost 50 tonnes of ivory were shipped from southern Africa to Japan and in 2009, 105 tonnes were exported from Southern Africa to Japan and China. Zimbabwe can export ivory carvings for ‘non-commercial’ purposes and Namibia can export ivory ‘ekipas’ (traditional carvings), also for non-commercial purposes. In 2007, a nine-year moratorium on applications to CITES for further downlistings was imposed, giving time to the international community to observe the effects of the moratorium and encourage it to fund anti-poaching measures such as the equipping and training of rangers.

Extinct in Sierra Leone

As well as opposing requests from Tanzania and Zambia to export respectively 90 and 22 tonnes of ivory, the coalition of East, West and Central African states (Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, Republic of Congo

and Rwanda), now also wants to see a 20-year moratorium imposed at Qatar. The Born Free Foundation says that any quantity of ivory entering the market will lead to an upsurge in poaching which in Kenya is at its worst levels since an international ban was first implemented in 1989. “For Sierra Leone, it may already be too late”, says Waterland. The foundation fears the last remaining elephants were poached in the West African state in September-October 2009. Catherine Bearder (UK Liberal Member of the European Parliament), who sits on the EP’s Joint Parliamentary Assembly with African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states, is petitioning the EU’s public to support the moratorium.

In its application to CITES, Tanzania says that its elephant population is well managed; steadily recovering from 55,000 in 1989 to 136,753 in 2006. Zambia also says it has “substantial conservation practices” in place.

“Legal ivory entering the market provides organised criminal syndicates with open channels for laundering illegal ivory”, says Waterland. She wants to see EU political support for a moratorium in CITES and funding to conserve elephant populations particularly in West and Central Africa.

Latest: In Doha, CITES member states rejected both the application from Tanzania and Zambia to sell stockpiles and the ‘Elephant Coalition’s’ request for an extension of the ivory trade ban.

Find out more:
www.bornfree.org.uk
www.cites.org
www.bearder.eu

No tuna fishing ban just yet



"In the Indian Ocean, the annual catch of 500,000 tonnes is 40 per cent above the level necessary to allow stock reproduction". © Reporters/AP

Hegel Goutier

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), meeting in Doha, Qatar, from 13 to 25 March 2010, did not decide on a bluefin tuna fishing ban in the Atlantic from 2011, as sought by the European Union, which believes over fishing of tuna in the Atlantic has already gone far beyond the required limit for species survival. There are also concerns about tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean, in which many EU countries are involved, and that is an important economic sector for the region's ACP states.

Before the meeting, EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik had drawn attention to the fact that, on the basis of the scientific data, a fishing ban is the only way to avoid tuna disappearing entirely from the Atlantic, where they are threatened by over-fishing. This is despite the protection measures taken in the past two years by the ICCAT (International Commission for the Preservation of Atlantic Tuna), which includes quotas imposed on fishing vessels and satellite monitoring of their movements, and also despite an even stricter surveillance system put in place by the European Commission.

These scientific opinions are unequivocal. In the past 60 years the tuna population in question has dropped by 15% compared with what it would have been

without fishing, thereby rendering its survival prospects unlikely. Bluefin tuna needs to be included in the CITES Appendix 1 of the most endangered species for which a total fishing ban must apply. This could be a temporary ban provided it is total, believes the European Commission.

A ban also has the support of environmental protection NGOs, such as the WWF, albeit with one reservation. The latter criticise the delay of one year before the ban enters into force, as advocated by the CITES, the Commission and certain EU Member States, including France. These NGOs want to see greater conviction, especially as few EU Member States have changed their stance after having long opposed any ban.

Although the (yellowfin) tuna found in the Indian Ocean is a little less threatened than its Atlantic relative, here too scientists are calling for drastic measures to ensure its survival. At the 'Taking stock, action today for sustainable tuna fishing tomorrow' conference, held in Victoria, the Seychelles, ending on 10 February 2010, experts including the reputed French scientist Alain Fonteneau expressed the view that the annual catch of 500,000 tonnes is 40% above the level required to permit stock reproduction.

The Seychelles Government, speaking through their Minister for the Environment, Natural Resources and Transport, Joel Morgan, called on countries with fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean to follow the example of the Seychelles and adopt healthy practices and to participate actively in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). For his part, Orlando Fachada, of the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries DG, expressed regret that the IOTC's action has failed to live up to the mandate with which it was entrusted.

Cotonou revision rises to MDG challenge

Anne-Marie Mouradian

Putting aside their differences, ACP countries and the European Union concluded the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement on 19 March 2010. The agreement will be formally signed in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in June at the next Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Council.

The revised agreement focuses on regional integration of the ACP countries and EU-Africa strategy. It steps up cooperation on the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), climate change, food security and sustainable fishing. Drawing on the lessons of the recent economic and financial crises, the agreement highlights the need to strengthen the capacity of the ACP countries to resist exogenous shocks and to assist them using all means, including the vulnerability FLEX mechanism.

Andris Piebalgs, the European Commissioner for Development, who was delighted with the outcome, said that the new provisions will enable the EU and the ACP countries to combat poverty more effectively and strengthen their political relations.

In the presence of the new Secretary General of the ACP Group, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the Minister for Economic Affairs, Trade, Industry and Tourism

of Gabon, Paul Bunduku-Latha, and the Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Soraya Rodríguez – Co-Presidents of the Joint Council – acclaimed the progress made and the compromises reached.

Bones of contention

In line with a request from the European Parliament, the EU wanted the principles of non-discrimination enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement to be extended to sexual orientation. In a resolution in December 2009, MEPs pointed out that homosexuality is only legal in 13 African countries and is still considered a crime in 38 others and expressed their concerns at the possible domino effect of an anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda.

Homosexuality is only legal in 13 African countries and is still considered a crime in 38 others

The ACP Group refused to accept any explicit reference to the rights of homosexuals. The compromise finally adopted is a vague one, settling on a reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2 of which advocates freedom “without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”.

The issue of readmission of illegal immigrants to their country of ori-

gin was another sticking point. Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement makes reference to the principle of return of illegal immigrants, but the Europeans maintain that it does not allow for an operational approach. The 27 Member States wanted to redefine the provisions, whereas the ACP favoured discussing the issue within the framework of the bilateral agreements between the EU and each state. Work on this issue will continue until the official signing of the agreement in June.

No aid figure

Furthermore, a joint declaration was expected on the future financing of EU-ACP cooperation after the 10th EDF expires in 2013. The EU proposed reaffirming its financial commitments to combating poverty and addressing the challenges identified in the agreement. The ACP states wanted more specific assurances and a series of factors, such as the increase in the number of EU Member States, adaptation to climate change and the adjustment costs relating to the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), to be taken into account. The EU was unable to commit itself. “These criteria have not even been discussed internally yet”, explained a European diplomat, and in the end, no declaration was adopted.

The third revision of the Cotonou Agreement in 2015 will coincide with the deadline for achieving the MDGs.

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EU action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

An 'EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development, 2010-2015' aims to speed up the progress of the EU and its 27 Member States on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on equality and maternal health which are lagging behind.

Debra Percival

It builds on the EU's 2007 'Communication on Gender Equality' actions, recommending the organisation of regular political meetings to assess progress, the setting up of gender databases and analysis at an EU level and more involvement of civil society in the specific gender-related projects funded.

"Improving women's daily lives in the world will be one of my priorities", stated Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development on the Action Plan's 8 March launch on International Women's Day.

Maternal health lagging

He added: "The EU is the world's biggest donor. We have to enhance our

ability to assist countries in implementing their gender commitments and to support the efforts of women's groups and networks in their fight for greater equality".

Least progress of all has been on MDG 5 focusing on maternal health. The 'EU Action Plan' also draws attention to acts of gender-based violence which continue to be widespread worldwide, particularly against women and girls (see box).

Find out more:

See *The Courier's* special issue on gender (December 2009)

<http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/cross-cutting/genderequ>

<http://www.acp-eucourier.info/fileadmin/issues/2009/X04/TheCourier-2009-X04.pdf>

http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/dev-policy-proposals_en.cfm (food security)

Gender drawing competition for eight to tens

Young people, aged eight to ten, from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Latin America, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and other European countries, including the EU's eastern neighbours, are asked to send in their drawings for an international competition launched by the EU on the topic of gender equality. The specific theme is how girls and boys, women and men can together make the world a better place. Winners in each region will be awarded a prize of €1,000 each, to be used to buy books, computers or other educational materials.

For details: http://ec.europa.eu/europe-aid/what/gender/drawing-competition_en.htm

Rape as a weapon of war

Gender-based violence is still rife in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on violence against women in armed conflict, an exhibition of photos snapped by photojournalist Cornelia Suhan on 'Rape as a weapon of war: Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo', was jointly hosted on 3 March by German Green Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Barbara Lochbihler and the German NGO Medica Mondiale at the European Parliament in Brussels. It featured the NGO's projects to rebuild the victims' lives. "It is not an inter-ethnic conflict but one of multinationals exploiting the Congo. Victims are not in Kinshasa but in rural zones and women are paying the price", said Jeannine Tshimpambu Mukanirwa, Project Coordinator for Peacebuilding with the NGO 'Promotion et Appui aux Initiatives Feminines au Congo', one of the few organisations for rape victims in DRC, and which works in the field with Medica Mondiale.



Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, March 8, 2009. International Women's Day Parade is celebrated in the town of Goma in war torn Eastern Congo. © Reporters/Teun Voeten



Coffee plantation Central Africa Congo (former Zaire). © Reporters / Eureka Slide

What next for ACP trade?

A repeat of the de-globalisation of the 1930s, or rapid growth of the 1990s and early last decade? Which scenario awaits the world post-crisis?

Debra Percival

Most likely is a return to the 1970s and early 1980s: very slow growth in the West; high growth in emerging markets – albeit slower than pre-crisis – and negative growth in low income and developing countries. The warning came from Dr. Razeen Sally, co-director of the European Centre for International Political Economy at a Conference, ‘EU Trade Policy Towards Developing Countries’ hosted by the European Commission in Brussels on 16 March.

Policymakers should be wary of past mistakes by erecting new non-tariff barriers which distort competition. There were signs of such discriminatory trade practices and restricted cross-border lending in the last quarter of 2009, says the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

There is no greater stimulus to world trade, said Dr. Sally, than to push ahead with the European Union’s Single

Market; specifically more open markets in energy and services. “When the EU’s internal market was doing well in the 1980s, external trade did well”, said Dr. Sally. And he added that the WTO’s Doha Trade Round should be pared down to such as the abolition of agricultural export subsidies so the world can start afresh on a post-Doha strategy; pluri-country negotiations of services, energy, government procurement agreements and elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade.

“Messy reality” of EPAs

His view of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the six African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions? Given the current “messy reality” with their negotiation, he doubts their successful conclusion. The Caribbean region, CARICOM, is to date the only one to have signed a regional pact that goes beyond trade in goods.

Other ACP regions – or parts of regions – have drawn up interim ‘goods only’ pacts and instead of joining an EPA, many Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the 79-state ACP group have instead chosen to benefit from free access to the EU market under the EU’s 2001 Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative for LDCs. The EBA is itself due to be reviewed before the end of 2011 alongside the EU Generalised System of Preference (GSP) for all developing countries, said the EU’s Commissioner

for Trade, Karel De Gucht, at the trade conference.

“EPAs will help make ACP countries more competitive by lowering import costs and providing access to affordable quality services. They will help create a transparent and predictable business environment and help ACP countries attract the investment they so desperately need”, said De Gucht. Not sharing this view many civil society groups continue to hit out at the EU’s “corporate trade agenda”.

Professor Festus Fajana from the African Union said that an EPA “development component” is essential, such as funds for infrastructure and more relaxed rules of origin. The EU says together with the 27 Member States, its target is to spend €2bn annually on aid for trade by this year.

China: EU’s no. 2 trade partner

“The EU’s trade with China – its second biggest trading partner – is worth €300bn per year and €50bn of the EU’s multilateral stock is in China. The EU’s trade with the ACPs is only €100bn, and just three and a half per cent of EU’s outward investment goes to ACPs.” Dr Razeen Sally.

The global politics of moving tectonic plates

Haiti and the Dominican Republic: a time for reconciliation

Hegel Goutier

The earthquake of 12 January 2010 awoke a global spirit of generosity, and it seems that this was true first and foremost of Haiti's near neighbour, the Dominican Republic. It may even be that this was the most important side effect of the catastrophe, at least for Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the region.

In just a few days, more than sixty years of relatively chilly relations between the two neighbours which share the same Caribbean island seem to have faded into the past. On both sides of the frontier, there is a strong feeling that what some commentators have dubbed a miracle, a rediscovery of a lost brotherhood, or a metamorphosis in relations has killed off once and for all the latent suspicion harboured by the political classes of each country towards their neighbour.

Planes, ships and trucks

From the very first hours after the earthquake, the Dominican Republic has mobilised an unimaginable array of resources in proportion to its own somewhat limited economic power. The first to appear on the scene were the rescuers, who were backed up with significant supplies of drinking water. The country then placed at its neighbour's disposal its hospitals and airports, and mobilised its aeroplanes, helicopters, ships and available land transport. Convoys of trucks were converted into mobile health centres and buses into schools, and trucks were dispatched to the remotest corners of Haiti to serve as mobile restaurants. The Dominican Republic has shared its hydrological, electrical and telecommunications resources with its neighbour.

A single set of figures sums up the situation. Every day since 12 January, the Dominican Republic has spent nearly \$US85,000 on aid for Haiti, and, in slightly over a month, the value of the food aid alone provided is estimated at \$US2.5M.

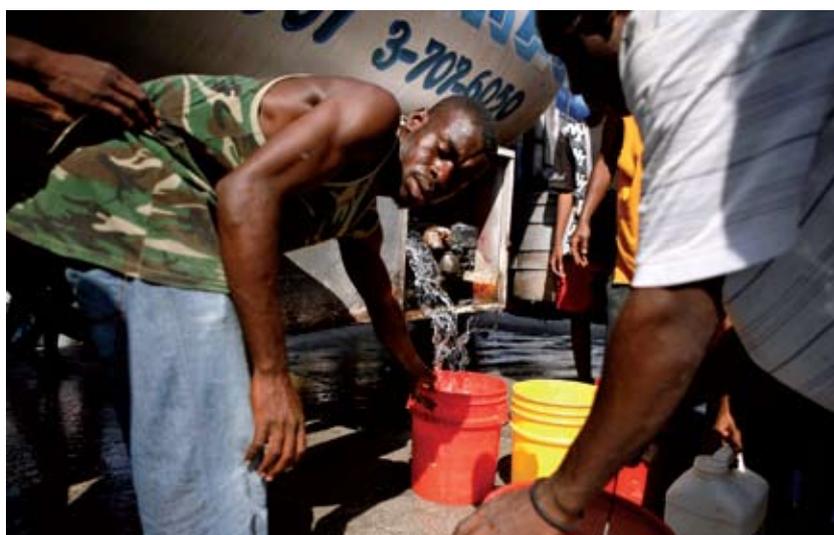
Looking beyond aid and even beyond the subsequent reconstruction of Haiti, the Dominican Republic has taken on a leading role in a series of diplomatic initiatives, aiming for instance to secure an early vote in the United States to pass the 'Law of Economic Opportunities' to provide more help for Haiti. In economic terms, the business communities of the two countries are contemplating nothing less than the setting up of special economic 'clusters', with a view to giving competitive edge to both nations' presence in the international market for certain products. On 5 February, this venture formed the focus of an important meeting of businesspeople, organised principally by the Director-Generals of two vital institutions in the countries, the 'investment facilitation centers': Guy Lamothe in Haiti and his Dominican counterpart Eddy Martínez Manzueta respectively. This initiative is being closely followed by the governments of both nations.

Free passage

The analysis of many a well-informed commentator has been sprinkled with other examples, too. The Dominican government has provisionally rendered null and void a set of laws, decrees and measures limiting or imposing strict

control over the entry into its territory of Haitians, granting free passage to the wounded. In the space of less than three weeks, the Dominican authorities have given the go-ahead to more than three hundred flights for medical purposes, with all visa requirements lifted, and have allowed a large number of homeless individuals to cross the frontier without imposing any strict controls on their movement. The cardinal importance of these measures has been universally recognised.

It is true that a degree of hesitation on the part of the Haitian government as regards accepting a Dominican military contingent among the United Nations troops posted to the country has surfaced, but no outright refusal has been forthcoming either. While it has been suggested that the Dominicans have not been acting solely for altruistic reasons, and that they are interested in the opportunities presented by development in Haiti, even if it is only to avoid a wave of migrants, these voices of circumspection do not, however, appear to have originated in the island itself. "And even if it were true, performing good deeds in order to protect oneself is still a kind of altruistic diplomacy", or so a Haitian official confided to us.



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Belgium backs small business in Africa

Hegel Goutier

Under the acronym ATHENA, the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO), a cooperative venture between the Belgian government and private enterprise, has set up, in collaboration with the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), a novel financial institution which aims to provide support for small businesses in the South, and in Africa in particular. ATHENA was officially launched on 4 February by the Belgian federal government minister for development, Charles Michel. He was joined by high-ranking officials of BIO and by Director General of the CDE, Mabouso Thiam. A sum of more than €3M has been set aside for the initiative.

Those behind ATHENA see it as the missing link for the enabling of support

for businesses in the South which are too large to benefit from microfinance and yet too small for medium-term-type financing by the banks. It therefore occupies a relatively new niche in the international market of financial cooperation, namely that of "mesofinance".

New partner

In joining up with a new partner, the CDE, the Belgian Investment Company, itself a joint venture of the Belgian state and private enterprise, is in a position to benefit from the broad experience of an organisation well-versed in cooperation between ACP nations and the European Union, and with specialised knowledge of the special features of the different types of companies in developing countries and specifically of the actual bodies operating on the ground. It now has available the expertise to be able to guarantee the credibility and solvency of these enterprises and thus to allow BIO to take the calculated risks necessary.

BIO, which has been in existence since 2001, has a presence in more than a hundred developing countries, of which it has 18 privileged partners, including 14 African countries, 11 of which are members of the ACP Group (Mali, Senegal, Niger, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa). For 2010, ATHENA has a budget of €3.3M, of which €300,000 will go to strengthening the technical expertise of beneficiary companies. In terms of the sums earmarked for the financing of enterprises in developing countries, BIO's budget of €138M showed a net increase in 2009, thanks to a €97M increase in the contribution of the Belgian government.

BIO's planned strategy for the next three years envisages its playing an increasingly important role in sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular focus on the development of the food processing sector.

New EU impetus for MDGs

Debra Percival

In the run up to the September Review conference in New York on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the European Commission has drafted a staff working paper on 'More and Better Education in Developing Countries', http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/SEC2010_0121_EN.pdf and is in the midst of drawing up other thematic papers on health, food security, gender and tax governance. The bottom line is that Official Development Aid (ODA) alone is not enough if the MDGs are to be reached (see separate article in this issue on the latest ODA figures). Together with an awaited 'Spring development package' which includes further Commission staff papers on the MDGs, on the progress on the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on financing, aid effectiveness and aid for trade, they are expected to give a new impetus to making progress on attaining the MDGs.

Strong EU Vision

"The EU should strive to promote a strong vision, common voice and action in global health and should promote an inclusive framework under the UN



The new project centre in the Eastern Congo of PAIF (Promotion et Appui aux Initiatives Féminines), the partner organisation of the NGO, medica mondiale, gives traumatised women and girls the opportunity to further their education and secure a future. © Cornelia Suhan/medica mondiale.

leadership," said EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, at a meeting on 'Delivering the Right to Health with the Health MDGs', held at the European Parliament, 2 March 2010. Piebalgs urged the international community to focus particularly on: mortality of children under five (MDG 4); maternal mortality (MDG 5) and major pandemics such as HIV/Aids and malaria (MDG 6). He also called for more thought on the "coherence of policies". Trade, he said, influenced access

to medicines and migration policies had direct implications on the ability of partner countries to keep their own health professionals. EU Foreign and Security Policy, he said, needed to take onboard global health threats. Food security, he said, was closely linked to nutrition and climate change affected health on a global scale. Piebalgs called for increased funding for research and development and a look at "innovative and original sources of funding".

New ACP Water Facility

Debra Percival

The EU's new €200M Water Facility for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries financed under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) was launched in Brussels on 9 February. It aims to further the target contained in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation and the related MDGs of reducing child and maternal mortality (MDGs 4 and 5) and combating disease (MDG 6). It follows the success of the first €500M facility (2004-2006) under the 9th EDF and emphasises participation of local partners and NGOs in projects co-funded with the EU.

Out of the overall budget, a sum of €110M is allocated to 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion for the MDGs'. Calls for proposals close on 2 June 2010. The focus here is on the provision of basic infrastructure in rural

and peri-urban areas. A €40M sum is also budgeted for proposals to set up 'Partnerships for Capacity development in the ACP Water and Sanitation sector' (North-South and South-South) in order to transfer expertise and knowledge from water and sanitation utilities, local authorities and other water sector actors to ACP counterparts. A €40M "pooling mechanism" will co-finance medium-sized water and sanitation infrastructure.

Luis Riera Figueras, a Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Development, said the first facility had brought safe water to 14 million people; 2-3 million people had benefited from improved sanitation, and 11 million from better hygiene awareness. The first facility also enabled 9 river basin infrastructure projects.

"Water is a basic human right", said Riccardo Petrella, a political analyst and author of the 'Water Manifesto' at the launch.

For more on the calls for proposals see: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/regional-cooperation/water/index_en.htm



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The Success of Capacity4dev.eu

Set up in October 2009, Capacity4dev (capacity4dev.eu) – an interactive platform set up by the EuropeAid office to "share ideas and knowledge" has had surprising success so far. Visitors to date number nearly 25,000. It also has just gained its 1000th subscriber.

Andrea Marchesini Reggiani

Virginia Manzitti (AIDCO), coordinator of the Backbone Strategy on Reforming Technical Cooperation, tells us about the idea behind the website: "What do you think of our technical assistance?" I put this to the leader of an African farmers' association some time ago, and the answer was so rich and interesting that I dreamt up Capacity4dev as a space to share these voices."

She continues: "I work on the EC Reform of Technical Assistance, with the aim of making it responsive to local demand and to real needs. This reform

is a game involving many players. We need partnership and inputs from the South to make it work. More generally, we need Southern voices to improve the way we work. Now, when I open the platform every morning it's like opening a window. When I post material, I'm happy to think that it will be accessible to such a variety of people."

Join in

But the website seems to have broadened its horizons beyond the initial target of operators in the field of technical cooperation. It now hosts around 30 workgroups (some of which are open, while others are restricted) focusing on issues such as rural development and agriculture (the most popular group,

with 46 participants), and culture and development (with 36 participants).

Capacity4dev's manager, Christoforos Korakas, says the site is "the first open space offered by a donor for partners to create their own working groups and fora. Whoever comes will bring content, ideas and material, and will join a growing community of practitioners."

"It's good to see the number and variety of external users growing", concludes Manzitti. "Many are from civil society and the private sector. It's encouraging to see that our invitation to come and see what we do has been taken up. Now we are aiming to build more exchanges and more online dialogue. It's a learning process."



South Africa: An extraordinary laboratory

Marie-Martine Buckens

11 February 2010. The entire Rainbow Nation is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela, the global icon of the fight against apartheid. His election as South Africa's first black president, in 1994, heralded a new era for all those condemned to the fringes of society, primarily black people. Today South Africa occupies a special place in the concert of nations, as witnessed by the Strategic Partnership signed with the European Union in 2007.

Yet the South Africans are also the first to highlight their still open wounds. First and foremost is crime, even though it affects essentially the underprivileged sections of the population. It is therefore not for nothing that the new black middle classes, those who benefited from the policy of 'positive discrimination' (Black Economic Empowerment), have adopted the same policy as the whites by protecting their homes with electrified fencing. "There is this constant underlying fear of violence,

even if everybody gives the appearance of being very friendly", one white South African told us. It is as if the population fear that at any moment the feat achieved by Mandela and his successors in avoiding a bloodbath and a mass exodus of whites will suddenly come to an end. It is no doubt this same fear that explains their attitude to the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries, at a time when Bishop Paul Verryn is calling on his country to open up its external borders just as, he says, it opened up its internal borders.

But if South Africa meets this challenge, it will prove once again that it is an extraordinary laboratory, in which a new mixing of cultures is at work.

Other major challenges remain. Access to basic services is denied to almost half the population, for example. Then there is the race issue, invisible barriers remain and everybody can assure you that "the colours of the rainbow do not touch". Yet the mixing process is at work,

progressing little by little. All of them, be they blacks, coloureds, whites or Indians – categories that still apply in a system of positive discrimination – will tell you proudly that they are "South Africans".

That leaves the country, with its wonderful people and beautifully diverse landscapes. An emerging economy that, alongside its precious stones, also successfully sells its wines and other nectars. "This country enables you to find and express your goal as there is so much to do" he adds.

11 June 2010. The South African soccer team, Bafana-Bafana, plays Mexico in the opening match of the World Cup at the Soccer City stadium near Soweto. A venue of great symbolic significance.



From the Khoisan to the Rainbow Nation

Marie-Martine Buckens

They were very probably the first to walk the land of Southern Africa more than 30,000 years ago. The San - whom Dutch settlers much later called Bosjesmans ("bushmen") - were hunter-gatherers. About 2,500 years ago, some of these hunters became livestock farmers. These Khoikhois, moved southward, as far as the Cape of Good Hope. They shared a common language with the bushmen, khoisan. Because of the "clicks" that are characteristic of their language, the Khoikhois were later nicknamed "Hottentots" (stutterers) by the settlers.

At the same time, the Black peoples, who had come from the Niger delta, started to move into the east, into the modern-day province of KwaZulu-Natal and later, to the Eastern Cape province. It was against this human backdrop that the first Europeans landed on the southern tip of what would become South Africa.

Initially, there were brief incursions by the Portuguese, who ultimately preferred the safe ports of Mozambique. Dutchman Jan van Riebeeck, commissioned by the omnipotent Dutch East India Company, and a hundred of his men, were the first to settle at the foot of Table Mountain on the Cape in 1652. His mission was to set up a base where sailors weakened by scurvy after several months at sea could take on supplies of fresh produce. The small colony ultimately became permanent; in their quest for grazing lands, the Dutch farmers, the Boers, were in competition with the Khoikhois. Slaves were imported, from Africa as well as from Malaysia, and their descendants form the ethnic group of "Cape Malays". Boer society imposed an initial, dual segregation. The only common factor: the Afrikaans language, a distorted, simplified form of Dutch. In 1685, the

Huguenots, driven out of France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, joined the Boers and developed the vineyards which now rival their French ancestors.

The Promised Land

At the end of the 18th century, the pace of change increased. The British decided to seize the Cape Colony. Objective: to prevent France, which had just invaded the Netherlands, controlling this vital stopping point en route to the Indies. The Boers - who dubbed themselves Afrikaners and were convinced they had found the promised land referred to in the Bible, an unshakeable conviction that would guide them throughout their history - found themselves in conflict with the British, who ultimately



Gravure Khoikhois – Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg.
© Marie-Martine Buckens

dominated politics and the economy. In 1835, the abolition of slavery, the legal compensation paid to farmers, and the arrogance of the British authorities drove thousands of Boers to emancipate themselves from the colonial power. So they started a long exodus northward - the Great Trek.

The Boer War

The Boers settled in the north and founded the Transvaal and Orange Republics. The British spread out from the Cape to Natal, to the east, killing thousands of Xhosas as they went. The truce between the two colonial peoples was short-lived. The discovery of diamonds in Kimberley in 1867 aroused the envy of the British who, led by the insatiable Cecil Rhodes, Prime Minister of the Cape and soon to be the head of the powerful *De Beers* mining company, would seize the territories to the north, which would later become Rhodesia. But it was above all the gold-bearing lode, located in Afrikaner "lands", in Johannesburg, which drove London to annex the Transvaal in 1866, which started the First Boer War. It would result in a narrow victory for the Boers, led by the legendary Paul Kruger. The British issued a new ultimatum, demanding equal rights for the British living in the Transvaal, where many foreigners, mainly Indians as well as blacks, were working in the gold mines. The Afrikaners resisted, and London responded. Boer civilians were sent to concentration camps, their black servants to other camps, and their farms were burned. The Afrikaners surrendered, but the tens of thousands of civilians who died in the camps would long be a source of hatred for Afrikaners against the United Kingdom.

From national union to apartheid

Under the unification treaty (*Verdrag van Vereeniging*) signed on 31 May 1902, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State became British colonies. To compensate, the British government granted the Boers autonomous government. In 1910, the Union of South Africa was established. The former commander of the Boer army, Louis Botha, became Prime Minister and leader of the South African Party. Blacks and Coloureds, who represented over two-thirds of the population, were systematically excluded from political life. The first reserves for the Blacks (*Bantustans*) were set up. Shortly afterwards, in 1923, the Black elite and the Coloureds formed a party that would become the *African National Congress* (ANC), which Nelson Mandela would later join. In 1913, the White Parliament adopted the *Native Lands*

Act, which reserved 93% of the land of the Union for the white minority.

In order to win over a conservative English-speaking electorate, Daniel Malan, winner of the 1948 election, introduced, a racial classification. It divided South Africans into categories: Whites, Coloureds (of mixed race), Black (Black Africans) and Asian (mostly Indian). In 1953, the Separate Amenities Act enshrined the separation of public places. Blacks were obliged to carry with them the notorious "Pass", which certified their identity and their place of residence. In 1961, the Union of South Africa became the Republic of South Africa. In June 1964, the UN Security Council condemned apartheid and ordered that sanctions be examined against the Republic. The various parties fighting apartheid radicalised. In 1961, Nelson Mandela founded Umkhonto We Siswe ("Spear of the Nation"), the armed wing of the ANC. Mandela was arrested in August 1963 and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964. In 1977, the South African government started a policy of "opening-up" to the Coloureds and Asians in

From apartheid to the Rainbow Nation

order to counter-balance the numbers of Blacks. Protests and riots killed many in the black ghettos. In 1984, a huge campaign of demonstrations swept across the country while Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a black, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In February 1990, anti-apartheid organisations were finally authorised. The ANC gave up the armed struggle and, after 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela was freed. In May 1994, after the ANC's victory in the first multi-racial elections, Nelson Mandela became the first black president of South Africa. The new Constitution established a federation of nine provinces. It recognised eleven official languages.



"Justice under a tree", logo of the South African Constitutional Court - Johannesburg. © Xavier Rouchaud

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Chaired by Desmond Tutu, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was charged with bringing an end to the years of apartheid, by recording all the crimes and political offences, committed not only by the South African government but also by the various anti-apartheid movements, over a period from 1 March 1960 (Sharpeville massacre) to 10 May 1994. Its work would take two years.

The rise of Jacob Zuma

In 1999, Nelson Mandela handed over to Thabo Mbeki. During his two terms of office (until 2008), the country experienced annual economic growth of 5% and improvements in living conditions in the townships. But on the other hand: 10% of the population remained in abject poverty, rising unemployment was estimated at nearly 40%, there was a sharp rise in crime and the spread of the AIDS pandemic, and the deterioration of public spaces. In 2008, widespread electricity cuts marked the end of the economic record of a president who in May had to contend with a wave of violence - murders and robberies committed against immigrants, mainly from Zimbabwe. Thabo Mbeki was forced to resign. This resignation led to a schism within the ANC and the creation of the Congress of the People (COPE) by supporters of the former president. In May 2009, Jacob Zuma was elected president of the republic after the ANC victory (65.90%) in the general elections, ahead of Helen Zille's Democratic Alliances (16.96%), who won the Western Cape Province, and Mosisuao Lekota's Congress of the People (7.42%).

Fifteen years after successfully organising the Rugby World Cup, marked by the victory in the final of the national team, the Springboks, this year South Africa will host the Soccer World Cup.

“South Africa is of strategic importance to Europe”

Interview with Lodewijk Briët, the European Union's Ambassador to South Africa



Lodewijk Briët, the European Union's Ambassador to South Africa. © Xavier Rouchaud

Marie-Martine Buckens

Due to its high level of development, South Africa has a special place in Europe's cooperation policy. How would you define it?

Our interest in this country is primarily geopolitical. South Africa is the continent's biggest economy. The country's stability is also of huge importance to the sub-region as a whole. South Africa is seen as the “big brother” within the Southern African Development Council (SADC). That said, our global economic interests are limited if you judge them on the statistics alone: South Africa represents between just 1% and 2% of our total trade with third countries. I am anxious to stress this as there remains a misunderstanding on this point: too often we are accused of coming here with a ‘hidden agenda’. This is simply not true.

So politics comes before cooperation?

Indeed, we are here first of all for political reasons, over and above the development aid aspect. That said, we are doing

important things in the field of aid. This political vision of our relations took concrete form in 2007 with a Strategic Partnership. Three years later, where are we? We have set up a dozen dialogue fora and, above all, we have moved from the donor-recipient relationship that had prevailed since the early 1990s to a partnership within which we discuss matters on an equal footing. Too often we forget that we have much to learn from our partner. In the case of South Africa we can learn about the reconciliation process, and about gender equality – I am thinking of my own institution, the European Commission, where there are still too few women in the top jobs. The attraction of this country lies in its population.

A population that remains deeply divided and unequal...

You must remember that the poverty threshold is €70 a month and 70% of South Africans live below this level. The population of 48 million is made up of black (just under 80%, at least half living in poverty), coloured (close to 10%) white (also close to 10%, more than half of Afrikaner heritage) and Asian (just over 2% mainly of Indian heritage). Of this total population some 7% pay most of the taxes. What is more, there

is little socialising between the different groups. The colours of the rainbow mostly do not yet touch, save for one significant exception: in education, at schools and universities. Reducing poverty is the major challenge facing the government.

What is your view of the measures taken by the government to combat poverty?

The measures presented on 17 February by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan in his 2010 budget speech represent a major effort in combating inequalities and poverty. This is an extremely complex and difficult exercise. But it is essential at the moral as well as at the political level. For better or for worse, South Africa is a one-party state and after being in power for 16 years the ANC can no longer afford to delay. The promise made by Thabo Mbeki of a better life for all remains a dead letter for many people. In this context, the legacy of ‘Bantu education’ (suffering from discriminatory education policy introduced under apartheid, editor) remains a particularly challenging issue. But, 16 years on, it is time to stop blaming the past. Personally, I am very impressed by many of those whom I have had the privilege of working with, most of them



University of Pretoria. © Marie-Martine Buckens

most of them from the black community. Unfortunately, the black South African population is arguably less well disposed towards its whites than are the black populations of neighbouring countries.

What is the EU's contribution to this "better life for all"?

Although we are the principal aid donor (70% of external assistance funds) our contribution is less than 2% of South Africa's GDP and 0.1% of its national budget. That said, the sum granted is substantial: €980M over seven years. The priority is employment and basic services. There are many examples of successful programmes. They have focused on the less favoured sections of the population, especially those living in the townships that are often very remote

from centres of industry or economic activity, but also the inhabitants of rural areas that are home to 45% of South Africans. About €122M has also been granted to basic education, a significant sum. It will take another generation to guarantee that every child can read, write and count by the time they leave school. We are also working in the fields of justice and governance, including security. As South Africa in many respects can be viewed as a one-party state it is particularly important for civil society to be able to play its part. Apart from this our contribution extends well beyond development assistance to issues including, for example, energy and climate change.

Regional cooperation is also among your priorities, especially the trade aspect. How are the negotiations on

an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the SADC and the EU going?

South Africa is seen as the 'big brother' by its regional partners and it is rather 'by default' that these countries are cooperating. As regards the EPA negotiations, we probably made mistakes but at the same time we made a lot of concessions that, to date, have not been met with constructive responses from the South African Government (at present four SADC countries have already signed an interim EPA). We respect the importance for the region to develop its own agenda and believe that the Agreement will help this agenda.



In front of the Union buildings, Residence of South African Presidency and Government. © Xavier Rouchaud

A democracy that is opening up to the opposition

Marie-Martine Buckens

Since the end of apartheid, the African National Congress (ANC) has reigned supreme in South Africa's political life. After the 'Mandela years' that were marked by reconciliation, followed by the 10 years of Thabo Mbeki, a president committed to pan-Africanism, since May 2009 it has been the era of Jacob Zuma. Observers believe this is a presidency that could be marked by a strengthening of democracy by permitting the opposition to play an increasing role in domestic affairs.

While the new South African leader initially caused questions to be raised on the international stage due to his disagreements with Thabo Mbeki that resulted in the latter and his supporters breaking away to set up a new party (COPE), and also due to his court appearances, the people of South Africa placed all their hopes in their new leader. They looked to him for new jobs, the extension of basic services to all layers of society, and a reduction in the virtually endemic crime-rate. "He is doing what he can", one European official told us. "In fact, 10 months after taking office he has surprised us with his pragmatism and ability." Unlike his two predecessors, Jacob Zuma is not a Xhosa but a Zulu, a distinction that remains sig-

nificant in a country where racial differences go beyond any divide between 'whites and blacks'. While Jacob Zuma is an autodidact rather than an intellectual, a polygamist and father of many children, his activism within the ANC is long standing. It landed him in prison on Robben Island with Nelson Mandela for a decade, but also earned him the staunch support of the left wing of the ANC.

Frankness

The frankness of the new president is also surprising. In a rare interview with the international press, Jacob Zuma told *Time* magazine last December that the challenges South Africa faces: crime, AIDS, social divisions – even within the black population with the emergence of black millionaires – and corruption, are "very real. And it is only when you admit that there have been deficiencies and weaknesses that you make sense to the people (...). After 15 years, people are asking: Where is the delivery?" *Time* consequently ran the headline, "Could Zuma Be the President South Africa Needs?"

One South African observer stresses that, unlike his predecessor, Jacob Zuma allows his ministers plenty of room to manoeuvre. His government has also opened up more to minority political parties, including the Communist Party but also, for the first time since 1994, to the Freedom Front (FF+) on the Afrikaner right. This party, which has now abandoned the idea of creating a tenth 'independent' province (an idea backed by the ANC at the time), caused quite a sensation in May 2008 by succeeding in having the Afrikaners included in the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO).

At the economic level, the president is currently facing increasingly pressing demands from Julius Malema, the fiery and often provocative leader of the ANC's Youth League, to nationalise government policy. It is a demand supported by the powerful Congress of South African Trade Unions – COSATU.



South Africa's President Jacob Zuma kicks the ball from the penalty spot during a visit to Wembley Stadium in London, March 4, 2010, four months ahead of the World Cup. © AP Photo/Sang Tan

Opposition politics in South Africa are changing slowly but surely

Charles Visser

With the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994, euphoria ruled. Then Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu's 'Rainbow Nation' seemed firmly on track, but soon enough the 'rainbow' became monochrome and this has bedevilled opposition politics in the country ever since.

The obstacles faced by opposition parties in South Africa are many fold and complex to address. First of all the concept of 'loyal opposition' is new to South Africa and as such often poorly understood. This holds true especially in rural areas where traditional leaders have held sway for hundreds of years. Other problems include what could be called the 'Lure of the Liberation' movement and a strong belief in ancestors. These two go hand in hand. It boils down to the following pattern of thought: "I must vote for the liberation movement, because my ancestors fought and died for it, and they would be angry if I voted for someone else."

Then there is a problem of perception that is unique to South Africa. The official opposition, the Democratic Alliance (DA), is perceived as being a party promoting 'white' interests. Whether this is based on any kind of reality is debatable and quite contentious, but the fact remains that it exists. The ruling African National Congress (ANC) recognises this all too well and does not hesitate to exploit it to its full advantage.

It was particularly true under the rule of former president, Thabo Mbeki who tarnished the legacy of Nelson Mandela by making race central to all his policies. Thus it became easy for him to label all criticism of his government as "racist" and, as such, not worthy of debate. And when the criticism emanated from black quarters the critics were derogatorily called "coconuts" meaning people who are black on the outside and white on the inside.

The emergence of COPE

Now the question remains: Are these very real obstacles insurmountable? South African opposition parties do not

seem to think so. The DA is especially optimistic that South African politics are escaping from "the straight-jacket of race and ethnicity" in the words of DA MP James Lorimer. Surprisingly, Lorimer credits the emergence of the Congress of the People (COPE), a break-away party from the ANC, for what he sees as the beginning of a sea-change in opposition politics in South Africa. He says that COPE, despite its organisational shortcomings, opened the first non-racial debate about opposition in the country and this benefited his party enormously.

Suddenly it was "okay" to vote for someone other than the ANC. In the 2009 elections, the DA had a net gain of 20 seats to a net loss of 33 seats to the ANC. But the majority remains firmly in favour of the ANC. They have 264 seats in parliament against the DA's 67, the 30 seats of COPE and the 18 of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

The remaining 27 seats are shared by smaller parties like the Independent Democrats (ID) with four seats and the Freedom Front + (FF+) also with four seats. The problem these parties face is once again the perception, in their case mostly accurate, that they serve the interests of small or ethnic groupings. Thus the ID is seen as a mainly 'coloured' (mixed race) party of the Western Cape, the IFP as an ethnic Zulu party and the FF+ as a party serving the needs of conservative Afrikaners. The general feeling is that these parties are likely to disappear gradually as South African democracy matures.



Mosiuoa Lekota, COPE leader. © Reporters / Jock Fistick



Democratic Alliance leader Helen Zille. © AP Photo/Denis Farrell

Land of Hope

Hundreds of thousands come to the land of Mandela each year seeking asylum. Fleeing from poverty, war or worsening situations in the neighbouring countries, they sometimes clash with their South African counterparts from the townships. Sometimes these situations can be explosive.



Alexandra township, Johannesburg. © Marie-Martine Buckens

Marie-Martine Buckens

To put it in perspective: Tara Polzer, coordinator of a study programme focused on migration at the University of Witwatersrand at Johannesburg emphasised from the outset that “the history of South Africa has always been marked by migrations, both regional and global”. She continues: “Many people, in particular whites, are under the impression that this migration is new and only dates back to 1994. However this is not the case. It is simply a different kind of migration. It isn’t necessarily representative of a massive population influx in terms of volume but rather in ‘quality’”. And the new immigrants only account for a small percentage of the population: 1.2 to 1.6M out of a population of almost 47M. “And this is including the retired Europeans.”

At the end of apartheid, South Africa attracted a large number of people, for political, and not solely economic, reasons. “These population movements”, Polzer goes on to say, “were not controlled as they were in the past when people were recruited to work in the mines and then sent back to their own country after their contract expired, or at least that was the theory”. Furthermore, “South Africa has an extremely liberal policy regarding the right to asylum,

which is found in few other countries in the world”. In this way, a refugee, whilst awaiting the decision which will seal his fate, has access, for a period of two years, to all public services and also has the right to work. Even so, in reality it is much less straightforward. Following the 2008 riots in the townships, the government took certain measures. “The government is very embarrassed by the

violence which erupted; the greatest problem is that it is lacking in the necessary technical capacity and long term plans to face these issues.” Polzer also warns about ‘spontaneous’ violence towards new immigrants: “It is very often instigated by specific groups, who mobilise the people in order to safeguard their own interests, whether commercial or political”.

The bishop causing a stir

Bishop Paul Verryn, head of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg explains, as an introduction, that: “I could tell you what is happening in Zimbabwe without reading a single sentence from a newspaper”, adding: “what’s happening in that country, if a child of eight years old can arrive here on his own?” The church has taken on the appearance of a real refugee camp where, for the last five years, there has been an influx of hundreds of illegal immigrants. For the most part they have been Zimbabweans, but there have also been refugees from Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the

Congo. Today there are over 2,000 of them being housed in precarious conditions in the place of worship. In January, police raided the premises. Shortly afterwards, the bishop was suspended by the religious leaders. “It was a wonderful gift; it created an opportunity to mobilise people, the government has decided to take action.” Although the church has a school and an IT centre, Verryn still feels that “this place of worship is not made to accommodate 2,000 people”. He added: “There are currently more than 700 buildings in Johannesburg standing empty ...”

Future soccer champions train in Alexandra

Alexandra is the most densely populated and troubled – and sometimes violent too (remember the 2008 riots) – of the Johannesburg townships. It is here that two afternoons a week about 250 children come to train on the 13th Avenue soccer pitch. Their coaches? Young volunteers recruited from neighbouring schools. It is a sport that teaches them stamina, discipline, rules of hygiene... and the fun of playing together.

Marie-Martine Buckens

Football? For many young people in the townships it is the dream of a better future. Just a few weeks before the World Cup, they are more motivated than ever. “We are using the World Cup to highlight our ‘sport for development’ project”, explains Sibuleka Sibaca, head of the South African branch of the NGO Play Soccer. In Alexandra (‘Alex’ as it is known by the people of Johannesburg), the programme was launched in August. “The young people living in these disadvantaged neighbourhoods are often left to their own devices, and the central idea is to complete their education, in the holistic sense, through their love for soccer”, explains Gerald Guskowski, of



The Play Soccer programme in Alexandra township. © Xavier Rouchaud

German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), which is co-managing the programme with European Union support.

Thursday, late afternoon. The children – aged between 4 and 15, girls and boys – are training in groups of 10 under the watchful eyes of their trainers. The physical exercises are punctuated with information sessions. “We talk about AIDS, malaria and other illnesses, immunisation, clean water and good hygiene practices, explaining that a strong body produces a better athlete”, says Sibaca. After the World Cup, in October, the teams will play in tournaments. Some players may even be lucky enough to be picked out by a scout for a professional team...

Learning about the other

“When it comes to community work and football projects, everybody heads for Soweto. Alex is overlooked. That is why we came here. It is a densely populated and dynamic community that presents a challenge”, adds the young Play Soccer director. For its part, the GTZ, also through its ‘Youth Development through Football’ (YDF) programme, supports two other communities in the Klerksoord refugee camp near Pretoria, home primarily to Zimbabweans who in 2008 were victims of xenophobic

violence. The activities there include football, rugby and volleyball, as well as courses to make the children more open to other African cultures and countries.

Vuvuzela and security

With President Jacob Zuma calling on the whole population to support the South African team Bafana-Bafana, preparations for the World Cup are in full swing around the country. In addition to the mass production of ‘vuvuzelas’ (‘to make noise’ in Zulu), a trumpet that the supporters will be blowing, the government is pulling out all the stops to complete the stadiums, roads and other infrastructure in readiness for the great event. Another imperative is security in a country where crime rates remain at record levels, as well as combating people trafficking. The EU is actively supporting (€108.8M for the 2007-2013 period) the measures taken by the government, especially modernisation of the police and improvement of the criminal justice system.



South African English and general slang

There are 11 official languages spoken in South Africa, with English being the lingua franca.

Over the centuries these languages have influenced each other and some words became common currency amongst most of them. Below is an abbreviated glossary of some of these words that a visitor to South Africa is likely to encounter ... with emphasis on culinary terms.

For a complete glossary compiled by Mary Alexander go to : http://www.mediaclubsouthafrica.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=423

babbelas (bub-buh-luss) – *noun, informal* – Hangover.

biltong (bill-tong) – *noun* – Dried and cured meat.

boerewors (boor-uh-vors) – *noun* – Savoury sausage developed by the Boers, the forebears of today’s Afrikaners. Also known as wors.

braai (br-eye) – *noun* – Outdoor barbecue, and a defining South African institution.

bunny chow – *noun* – Curry served in a hollowed-out half-loaf of bread.

chiskop, chizkop, – *noun, informal* – Bald person, particularly one with a shaved head.

dagga (dach-ah) – *noun, informal* – Marijuana.

droewors (droo-uh-vors) – *noun* – Dried boerewors, similar to biltong.

The 'Black Diamonds'

Say "Soweto" and most people think of an endless sprawl of apartheid-built box houses. People who have actually been there would perhaps think of the palatial houses rising incongruously here and there between the box houses. Others may think of the vibrant street life and the famous, perhaps infamous, Soweto street parties and the pulsating beer halls called 'shebeens' – but very few people would think of wine and winemakers.

Charles Visser

But one of the historically most entrenched white-dominated industries is slowly but surely giving in to the pressures of transformation and wine is becoming big in Soweto. Proof of this is the phenomenal growth of the Soweto Wine Festival which is due to host its 6th annual edition in September this year. (Yes, there will be life in South Africa after the Soccer World Cup!).

So, who are the people driving this move towards wine in a predominantly beer drinking market. The short answer would be the so-called 'Black Diamonds' ... mostly as wine consumers. They are the emerging class of black entrepreneurs and business people who are making the most of their post-apartheid opportunities. They are mostly, but not exclusively, young, confident and on the go ... and they are going in just one direction and that is up!

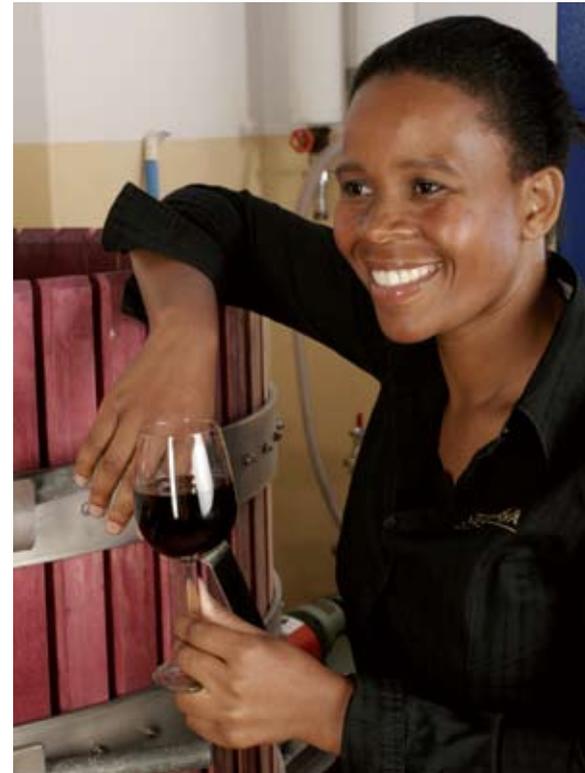
Joe Chakela (55) and five other owners of bottle stores (as licensed liquor outlets are called locally) became involved in the wine industry directly after the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994. Strictly speaking, Joe and his friends are too old to be called 'Black Diamonds'; they deserve a men-

tion because they consider themselves as a main driving force in bringing wine culture to South Africa's townships, especially Soweto. Their initial plan was to launch a new brandy in the townships. Joe stopped drinking beer and switched to wine ... and today he and his colleagues are the proud owners of 55 per cent of *Tukulu* wine farm in the famous Stellenbosch wine region. The minority stakeholder in *Tukulu* is South African liquor giant *Distell* and the venture is considered as an example for successful transformation in the wine industry.

A perfect example

As 'Black Diamonds' go, Ntsiki Bayela of *Stellekaya* estate near Stellenbosch is a perfect example ... And judging by the number of awards the wines produced by *Stellekaya* have won since she joined them six years ago, she is a winemaker of note!

Ntsiki's road to becoming a top winemaker was not an easy one. She grew up as an orphan in rural KwaZulu-Natal and was raised by her aging grandmother. But how does a black lady from a rural area become a winemaker, a white male dominated industry? The simple answer is hard work at school that won her a scholarship from *South African Airways*. The scholarship was specifically to encourage young black people to become involved in wine making as



Ntsiki Bayela in her estate Stellakaya, Stellenbosch.
© Stellakaya

part of the airline's wine selection process. Ntsiki says that once she started out at the Stellenbosch University she knew that she had found her calling in life. That was despite being the only black person in her class and one of only a few women.

Ntsiki's favourite wine of the moment is *Stellekaya's* Orion, a Bordeaux style blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. It got no less than four-and-a-half stars out of a maximum of five, from South Africa's foremost wine critic John Platter.



Eish (aysh) – exclamation and adjective, informal – Ouch! or Ow!

frikkadell (frik-kuh-dell) – noun – Meatball.

jol (jawl or jorl) – noun, verb and adjective, informal – Celebration, fun, party (noun); to celebrate, have fun, party, dance and drink (verb).

kwaito (kw-eye-toe) – noun – Music of South Africa's urban black youth, which first emerged in the 1990s.

kwela (kw-eh-la) – noun – Popular form of township music from the 1950s, based on the pennywhistle – a

cheap and simple instrument taken up by street performers.

laduma! (la-doo-mah) – exclamation – Popular cheer celebrating goals scored at soccer matches.

lekker (lek-irr) – adjective and adverb, informal – Nice, good, great, cool or tasty.

makarapa (mak-ah-rah-pah) – noun – A well-crafted and decorated headgear usually worn by football fans in South Africa.

pap (pup) – noun – Porridge made from mealie meal (maize meal) cooked with water and salt.

robot – noun – Traffic lights.

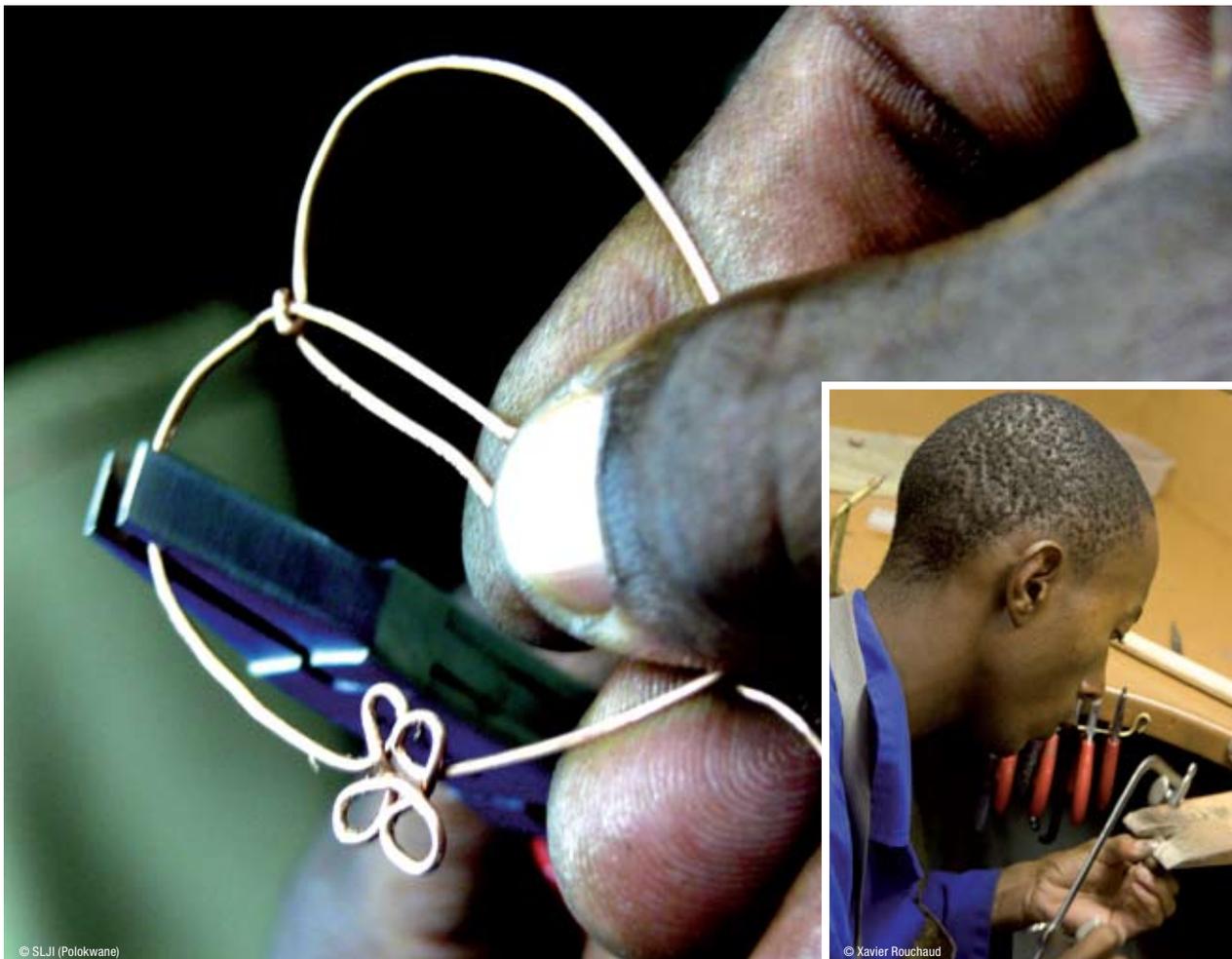
samoosa (suh-moo-suh) – noun – Small, spicy, triangular-shaped savoury pie deep-fried in oil. Originally made by the Indian and Malay communities.

slap chips (slup chips) – noun – French fries, usually soft, oily and vinegar-drenched.

tokoloshe – noun – Evil imp or spirit, thought to be most active at night.

tsotsi – noun – Gangster or thug.

zol – noun, informal – Hand-rolled cigarette or marijuana joint.



From dust to gold

Marie-Martine Buckens

A multitude of projects are starting up in South Africa to free the – too many – rural communities that are locked in a spiral of poverty. The approach is to provide them with the tools they need to put their skills to good use. It is one that has been met with a response from the local, regional, and even international market.

In many respects South Africa remains a raw materials producer. Marketing products with a major added value often remains a challenge due to the many obstacles in the form of tax policy, an inadequate industrial base and the lack of a skilled workforce. This is particularly evident in the working of precious metals and stones.

“The whole system currently in place works against the local market”, explains Demos Takoulas, head of the Seda

Limpopo Jewellery Incubator (SLJI), set up in July 2009 in Polokwane, South Africa’s northern province. “This applies to diamonds, most of which go abroad. *De Beers* (diamond producer, ed.) and the government are working hand in hand in this case.” He continues: “South Africa is one of the world’s pioneers in the production of precious metals and the most important producer of platinum, especially in this province. It is also the world’s fifth largest diamond producer, yet our jewellery industry represents just 2 per cent of the world market in precious metals and stones. What we lack is the know-how and appropriate environment”. Nevertheless, the SEDA, a government agency which is responsible for small and medium-sized businesses, has decided to finance business incubators in what have been known historically in South Africa as disadvantaged industries. In the case of jewellery, SEDA has acted on the basis of a study by the Jewellery Council of South Africa that estimated the industry needed 3,804 skilled workers over the next five years.

Alongside SEDA, the European Union is the principal donor (€7M).

The principle of the SLJI is to offer apprentice jewellers – there are currently 30 of them, including five who are deaf – the technical and also the commercial, administrative and computing skills to enable them to set up a small business. “Many have no computer training and also have to learn to manage commercial risks and even how to make out an invoice and contact customers”, explains Demos Takoulas. On the other hand, many of them – especially the deaf – have undoubted talents in jewellery-making. Thus, in the space of just a few months, the company headed by this South African of Greek origin has shown more than respectable results. He himself says that since he has headed the business he is “increasingly happy – it is the memory of my mother, who smiled on the world, and who taught me what is important in life”. A number of jewellers have already managed to set up on their own since its launch. “Starting with a salary of 2,000 rand (about €200) a month, our activity within the SLJI business incubator enabled us to record a turnover of 100,000 rand in December 2009, 70,000 rand of it profit”, Vukani Sibanda and Tau Tebogo Lee told us.

HIV/Aids: Responsible cooperation

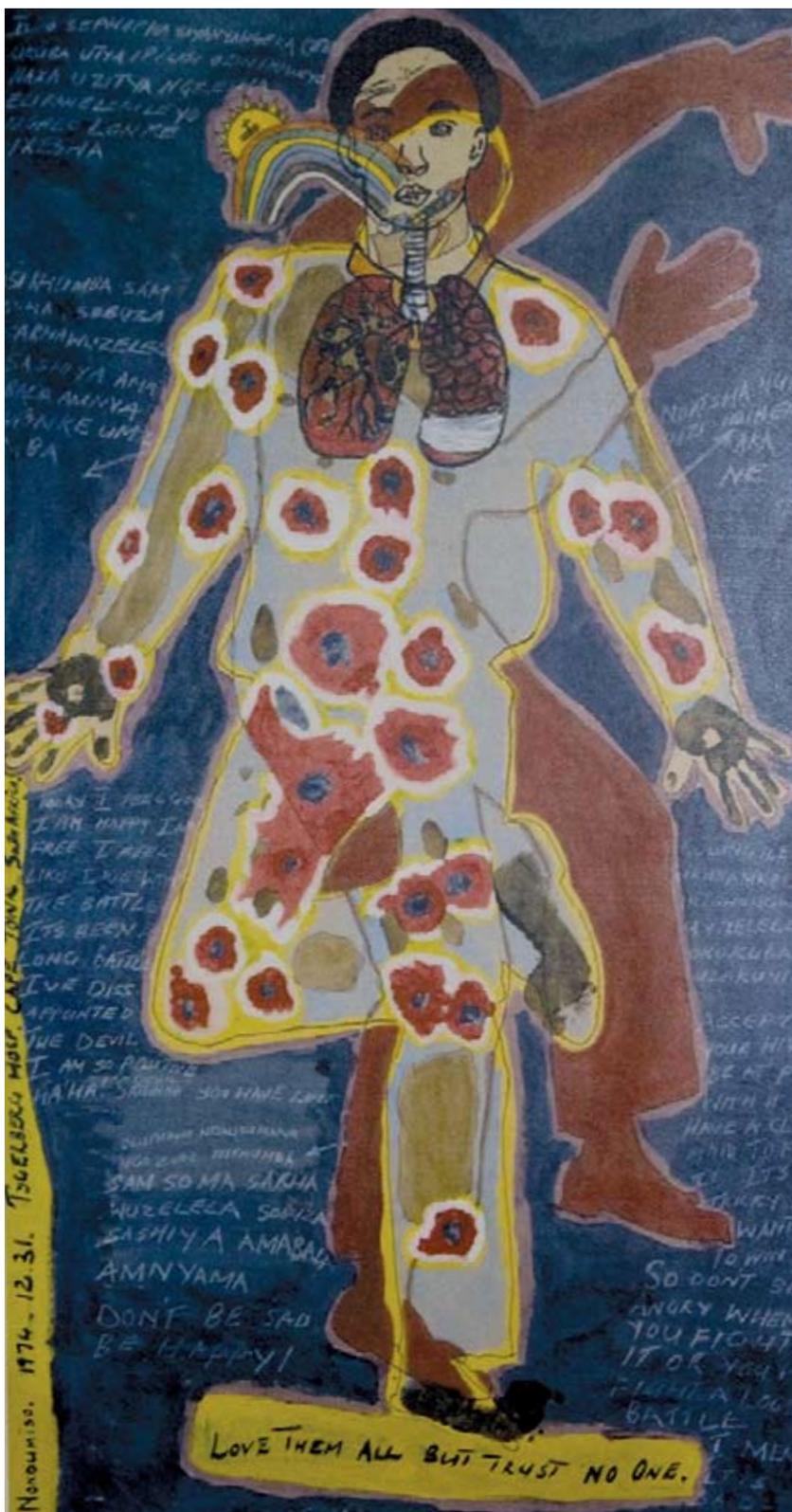
Health – and the fight against HIV/AIDS in particular – is one of the South African Government’s biggest priorities, alongside education, employment and combating poverty.

Marie-Martine Buckens

Southern Africa, and South Africa in particular, has one of the highest Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) rates in the world. The virus is notably prevalent among women in disadvantaged population groups, principally African. “In particular, an estimated 50 per cent of pregnant women are infected with the HIV virus”, explains Jean-François Aguilera, head of the HIV Task Force set up by the European Commission in 2008 in Johannesburg. The aim is to give the European delegations from 10 Southern African countries advice on preventing the epidemic from propagating through development projects financed by the European Union. The medical knowledge of the Task Force members – Jean-François Aguilera is a doctor with a Master’s in public health – helps make up for the lack of expertise on the part of certain health delegations. “These delegations can then in turn advise the governments of their respective countries”, continues Aguilera.

A guide to ‘good practices’

Studies are also being carried out to assess human resources in the health field – as is the case in Swaziland and South Africa – as well as the health policies implemented at the work place. “In most cases the human resources are clearly insufficient”, explains the Task Force official.



“On my picture I drew the virus – it’s the small blue dot. The red circles are the Anti Retrovirals eating the virus. The white is my blood. Look what I have written under my left hand: Accept your HI Virus, be at peace with it, have a clear mind to fight it”. Nondumiso Hlwele – Constitutional Court’s art collection, Johannesburg. © Marie-Martine Buckens

But one of the priorities is to compile a guide to 'good practices' in the field. "Take the case of Malawi", explains Aguilera, "where the EU is financing road building projects. The mobility of the workers employed by these projects is a risk factor in HIV dissemination. The driver of a mechanical digger who is away from home will have sexual relations, often with prostitutes, at his place of work. If you train women to replace the men, you will reduce the risk. Other measures are also being taken, such as prevention campaigns aimed at the local population. If there are prostitutes then their health should be monitored,

treatment possibly given, and condoms distributed".

The same is true of rural development projects. "Women, especially agricultural workers, are often victims of rape and consequently HIV. It is vital to take into account this vulnerability particular to women, and in the case of agricultural projects this can be done by providing separate accommodation and latrines that are not placed 500 metres into the forest.

This guide has also been adapted for projects carried out directly by governments where aid is essentially in the

form of budgetary assistance, as in the case of South Africa. "This budgetary assistance is linked to certain conditions and we could add the condition that direct account must be taken of the HIV problem."

While Aguilera acknowledges that measures have been taken in the countries concerned, they fall far short of the effort required. "We have drawn up a document that should enable the European Commission to show that funds granted to the Global Fund against AIDS in the field of prevention are insufficient."

University campuses spared the worst

After women, it is young people who are most affected by HIV in South Africa. A project launched by the Ministry of Education's Department of Higher Education, with EU financial support, is currently identifying actions to be implemented on the campuses of South Africa's 23 universities. The first surprise was to discover that HIV is clearly less prevalent on the campuses than in the country as a whole.

"While the distribution of HIV conforms to the national pattern in terms of race (blacks most affected), gender (primarily women), age (the young) and education group (the least educated), the percentages are lower", explains Dr. Gail Andrews of Pretoria University (UNIDA), who heads the group that is coordinating the programme. Among the university students who agreed to be tested for HIV, 3.4 per cent tested positive, compared with rates of 6.5 per cent or 10.2 per cent identified in studies for the global population of the same age, i.e. aged 18 to 24. Behind this global percentage there are, however, huge disparities between the different racial groups: 5.6 per cent for Africans (blacks), 0.3 per cent for white students, 0.8 per cent for 'coloured' students, and 0.3 per cent among Indian students.

The results also show that the lower the level of education on the university campus the greater the HIV prevalence. Teachers show a lower prevalence than students (1.5 per cent); administrative

personnel show a prevalence of 4.4 per cent (higher than that of students) while among personnel providing basic services the prevalence is 12.2 per cent. "This study", stresses Gail Andrews, "tells us that we must work above all with these workers, who also come from disadvantaged backgrounds". The same is true for African students who also very often come from relatively poor families.

Apart from carrying out this survey the programme also drew up recommendations for teachers to include material on prevention in their classes. "We targeted the Faculties of Education in particular but also the Health Sciences, Economics and Trade Faculties", adds Gail Andrews. The

report, which was officially submitted to the government in April, recommends that more health centres should be opened on university campuses and that more antiretroviral drugs be made available.

"European financing enabled us to implement the programme's educational component in full. This will continue, even after the programme ends at the end of this year, as the personnel have been trained and can now go on to train the students", explains the coordinator. "Also", she continues, "we will carry out further surveys within the next two years to see how HIV rates evolve on campus, thus permitting us to study the impact of these new measures".



Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg. © Xavier Rouchaud

Rehabilitating rural areas

Muyexe, a poor and remote village on the edge of the Kruger National Park, has become the first 'pilot village' under the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme launched in August 2009 by President Jacob Zuma.



Muyexe. © Xavier Rouchaud

Marie-Martine Buckens

The village presents in condensed form the many problems faced by South Africa's rural farmers. Adjoining the vast Kruger National Park (the size of Belgium), it comes under regular attack from the elephants and buffalos which break through the perimeter fence that separates the park from the rest of the country. Livestock is kept well away from the park and grazes the land closest to the village. Water is scarce and we are far from the fertile southern slopes of this Limpopo Province where there is large-scale cultivation of banana and mango trees or pines to supply the paper industry. The houses often lack even basic sanitary facilities. Finally, access to the land is a thorny issue in a country now facing the failure of its land reforms.

Barely up and running, the development programme immediately turned its attention to the most urgent problems. A second fence was erected along the park perimeter and then a third to create a buffer zone between the cattle suffering from foot-and-mouth disease, which need vaccinating, and the healthy cattle, and to protect the new kitchen gardens. More than 150 houses, together with 100 toilets, were built in the space of four months. Tanks were placed next to the houses to collect rainwater and water recycling introduced, while agreements were concluded with supermarkets to distribute seeds, and then the coffee, watermelons and other produce from the communal kitchen gardens. Finally, land was allocated in agreement with the traditional leaders. The programme is essentially man-

aged by the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, and funded by the national government as well as the province and municipality. "In regard to our relations with the Kruger Park, we envisage setting up a discussion group to try and find an institutional arrangement. The question remains open", explains an official in charge of the Department of Rural Affairs.

The problem of land redistribution

In 1994, in the aftermath of apartheid, the government set itself the task of redistributing, by 2014, 30 per cent (82 million hectares) of the agricultural land – 90 per cent of which had been allocated to white farmers in 1913. An impossible goal, admitted Gugile Nkwinti, Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, on 2 March. At present just 5 per cent of farms have been redistributed. There are many reasons for this, including the high cost of buying the land but also, and most importantly, lack of experience among black farmers who are used to subsistence farming. The majority of the farms in Limpopo's fertile valleys have consequently run into trouble due to poor technical and financial management. Following the experience in Zimbabwe, the South African government therefore decided to refocus its policy. Priority will now be given to existing infrastructure (modernisation, mechanisation and training).



Fence between Kruger Park and Muyexe village. © Xavier Rouchaud

Climate negotiations move south

By putting forward Tourism Minister Marthinus Van Schalkwyk as a senior UN climate official, South Africa intends to play the leading role among the developing countries in the ongoing 'post-Kyoto' negotiations.

Marie-Martine Buckens

As *The Courier* went to press, Jacob Zuma officially announced the candidacy of his Tourism Minister for the post of Executive Secretary of the Convention on Climate Change, which has been vacant since the resignation in February of the Dutchman Yvo De Boer. Known for his negotiating skills in the Convention when he was also Environment Minister, Marthinus van Schalkwyk would have the backing of several major environmental NGOs and certain developed and developing countries. Pretoria, like its partners in the other emerging economies brought together as 'Basic' (Brazil, South Africa, India, China), has signed the controversial agreement in Copenhagen which plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. This non-binding agreement allows emerging countries to influence the negotiations aiming to replace the Kyoto Protocol (applicable only to industrialised countries), which expires in 2012. Yet it is in South Africa, where the Convention summit will be held in 2011, that the post-Kyoto solution will be decided.

South Africa is less alarming to its northern partners than to its energy devouring Indian and Chinese partners. This is particularly true today, when the country must rely on foreign countries to compensate for the chronic under-investment in its energy system. The opposition of the United States and the United Kingdom to a loan of US\$3.75bn (€2.75bn), or one tenth of the planned investments, is indicative of the issues involved. Anglo-Saxon Environmental NGOs condemn a loan which would go towards funding new polluting coal-fired plants, the country's main source of electricity production. Others imagine a stand off between American and French



Near Soweto. © Xavier Rouchaud

manufacturers seeking to expand the nuclear programme – the only one on the African continent. Furthermore, South African companies are collabo-

rating with their EU partners on developing new techniques for storing carbon and clean technologies.

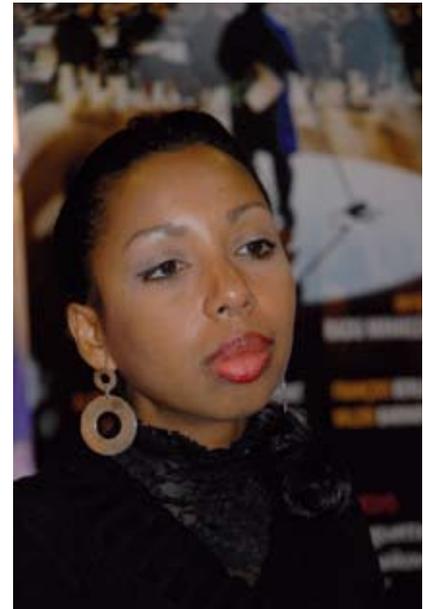
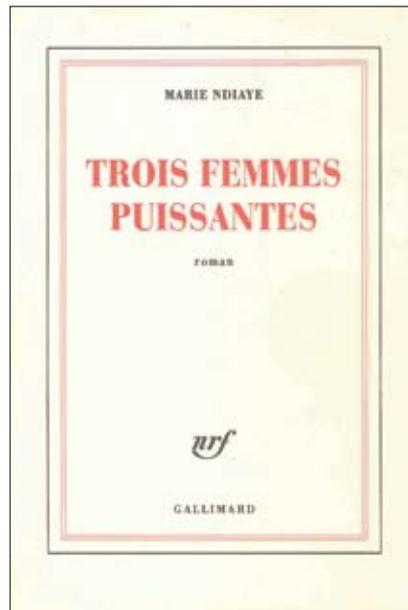
Some figures South Africa

Size: 1.2M km²
Population: 48.7M
Capital cities: Pretoria (administrative), Bloemfontein (legal), Cape Town (legislative)
Population growth: +1.15%
GDP (MUSD): 277.1 (2008)
Real growth rate: 3.1% (2008)
Inflation: 11.5% (2008)
Export of goods (US\$, bn): 80.20 (23% precious metals, 13% iron and steel)
Import of goods (US\$, bn): 91.05 (fuel, equipment and machinery)

EU- South Africa

Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) (signed in 1999), which notably includes a free trade agreement between South Africa and the EU spanning a period of twelve years

and covering 90 per cent of bilateral trade. Cooperation in research and development is the subject of a separate agreement for science and technology (see *The Courier* no. 14) Country Strategy Paper (CSP) on development cooperation for the period 2007-2013. Its main objective is to reduce poverty and inequality while fostering social stability and environmental sustainability and focusing on job creation and capacity building in terms of service provision and social cohesion. The indicative budget of €980M is mainly paid as budget support. European Investment Bank. In total, the lending activities of the EIB amounted to €1.5bn. The predicted funding for the period 2008-2013 is forecast to be €900M.



©Hegel Goutier

A powerful woman

Hegel Goutier

She would simply have said in a monotone voice: “Oh great, I’ve won the Goncourt”, which reflects her economy of language as well as a certain distance and strength of character. Marie Ndiaye, the daughter of a Senegalese father and French mother, is best known for her writing, a precise style where no word or punctuation mark is redundant. Neither could it be replaced by another or by a synonym.

She only uses what is essential. There was no full stop in her first novel *Quant au riche avenir* (‘As For the Rich Future’); she didn’t put one in. One book, one sentence, one long breath. Like the flight of the albatross carrying the reader on its wings over all of her other works. This novel, which she wrote at the age of 17, astonished the literary world, prompting the highbrow review *Quinzaine littéraire* to declare at the time that she was already a great writer. Ndiaye had, in fact, been writing since the age of 12.

The first verses of the three songs – or three stories – which make up *Trois femmes puissantes* (‘Three Powerful Women’) certainly leave the reader

breathless. Who killed Norah’s father’s beautiful young mistress? Her brother, who she loved dearly when they were little, who has become glib, insipid, almost artificial, and stands accused of the crime after an incestuous relationship with this woman? Or the calculating father who took him from the family home in France to Africa after leaving the mother, Norah – who he struggles to remember – and her sister in poverty?

The father: “He was there, radiating cold brilliance, obviously having fallen over the doorstep of his arrogant house, the somewhat flamboyant side where the garden had been planted because, Norah said to herself... this radiant, fallen man, a huge blow to his head seemed to have restored harmonious proportions... And this man who could transform any entreaty made of him into a request for himself”.

Description of feelings

There is a certain build-up of tension, but definitely not the kind found in a thriller. Her intricate descriptions of emotions are without comparison – fear, disgust, outrage, frustration, shame and humiliation – she possesses the ability to create a subtle haze for readers which is the hallmark of a great writer. Even before winning the Goncourt Prize,

Trois femmes puissantes became a best-seller within weeks.

In the second song, Fanta, from Senegal, where as a teacher of literature she had succumbed to the charm of Frenchman Rudy Descas, becomes a cleaning lady in Gironde, France. Having come from a poor background, she returns there. “But she could not prevent him from reflecting on the past and reminding her in an imploring voice of the not so distant good times, when one of their greatest pleasures, in the half-light of their room, sat on the bed, side by side, like two companions, was...”

The novel’s last song takes us into the life of humiliation suffered by Khady Demba in her country, Senegal. Dignity lies in understanding this humiliation and the self-awareness which help her to take control of her deprived life. A sneak preview: “When her husband’s parents and sisters told her what they expected of her, what she would be obliged to do, Khady already knew...” Finally, she reflects: “It’s me, Khady Demba, she still thought about the time when her head hit the floor and when, eyes wide open...”

The Khatàrsis Project in Cape Verde

Change is afoot in contemporary Cape Verdean culture. Young artists are set on stirring things up.

Sandra Federici

A good example is The Khatàrsis Project, a multidisciplinary art installation that was displayed at the Casa da Imprensa in Praia in December 2009. The project was born out of the desire to explore debates about the former Tarrafal prison camp and the lives of the political prisoners incarcerated there during Portuguese colonial rule. The prison camp was set up by the Salazar regime near the beautiful Tarrafal beach, on the island of Santiago.

A memorial conference, organised by the Amílcar Cabral Foundation, was held last year. The main aim of this institution is to promote the memory of this famous Guinean-Cape Verdean hero. Recently, under the direction of Samira Pereira, it has also been involved in organising cultural activities aimed at young people. This foundation provided the means to allow the artists César Schofield Cardoso and João Paredela to carry out the Khatàrsis Project.

Female victims

The installation is based on a video by Cardoso, where the human rights violations that took place at Tarrafal are represented in a universal and symbolic way by showing a woman being subjected to violence, her small frame defenceless in her white dress. While men were locked up and tortured in the camp, those who were left behind – their wives and children – were just as much victims of the totalitarian regime.

The victim is played by the artist Soizic Larcher, who at the end of the video engages in action painting, where the physical action of painting represents a catharsis – the only solution to counter the eternal, inevitable violence of man.



© César Schofield Cardoso, Katharsis

African prêt-a-porter

In recent years, the organisation of a large number of fashion festivals, events and competitions has given greater visibility to African designers. It has highlighted the need to promote the African fashion industry on a wider scale.

Elisabetta Degli Esposti Merli

Suzzy Menkes, one of the most influential figures in the fashion industry, recently wrote an article in *The New York Times* entitled 'Next Stop, Africa',* in which she predicted that upcoming trends would be inspired by African fashion.

The catwalk guru said: "Maybe political correctness has made designers hesitant up until now; maybe they have had sincere doubts about recycling images from a part of the world that was ravaged and exploited by colonialism."

Or maybe the concept of 'African fashion' has been held back by clichés inherited from ethno-anthropological literature and colonialism that view African societies as having codes of dress that adhere to the rigid functionalism of ritual dress, and as being resistant to the very idea of fashion.

Africa's time has come

Menkes observes, "Wouldn't it be sweet to think that, after all the barren years, Africa's time has come?" And things are changing. International interest in African fashion has been growing, aided by events such as the Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg Fashion Weeks, and, since 2005, the Tunisia Fashion Week. The International Festival of African Fashion (FIMA) has been held annually in Niger and has gained a good reputation due to the energy of its founder, Seidnaly Sidhamed Alphadi.

L'Afrique est à la mode! ('Africa is in fashion!'), a competition organised by Culturesfrance as part of FIMA. The competition aims to increase young people's access to the international fashion

market. It is targeted at independent designers aged 18 to 35 who live and work in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean (except for Réunion), and in the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia). South African, Thokozani Freedom Mbatha, won the competition in 2009.

Transition

The designer said that his interpretation of *transition* (the theme of the competition) is based on his personal philosophy, "where the past, present and future flow and blend in one direction, with each city having its own character that is ancient and modern. This combination brings a new dimension and increases and broadens the horizon and prospective of each culture and one's own interpretation of culture".

Other winners included Salah Barka from Tunisia and Charlotte Mbatsogo from Cameroon.

For Salah Barka, "Africa is really in fashion and will soon be dressing the world (...) My creations transmit the character of the continent that produced them – a continent which transforms, works, and dances".

25-year-old Charlotte Mbatsogo also has clear plans: she wants to reinvent the classic cuts in order to adapt to different times and trends.

It is clear from the collections presented at the competition that African fashion is made up of a series of identity transformations, exchanges, negotiations and renegotiations.

And it is ready to inspire new trends.

* <http://travel.nytimes.com/2005/03/20/travel/tmagazine/20TMENKES.html>



Barkah Salah. Fashion show Photo by Bill Akwa Bétoté.

HIFA 2010: Harare International Fine Art

The 11th edition of Harare International Festival of the Arts will take place this year between 27 April and 2 May. This six day annual festival and workshop programme showcases the best of Zimbabwean artistry, along with the work of international artists.

Sandra Federici

The festival puts the spotlight on various disciplines: theatre, dance, music, circus, street performance, the spoken word and visual arts. Since its first edition in 1999, it has attracted large audiences, and has come to be seen as an important symbol of positivity in Zimbabwe, through an attempt to socially and culturally unify disparate groups at a time of ideological conflict and political uncertainty. Indeed, HIFA is now seen as the largest cultural event in Zimbabwe.

In 2006, UNESCO-Harare supported the participation of traditional dance groups in the festival, including the marginalised Chigombela Venda Dancers. It also gave funding to workshops on different subjects: Arts Promotion and the Internet, Product Development and Marketing (for craft workers), and Art and Development (encouraging open discussion on the topic of HIV).

'About Face'

This year the Founder and Artistic Director Manuel Bagorro and the Board of Trustees (presided over by Angeline Kamba) chose the theme 'About Face'

– an expression that is open to interpretation. As the organisers state on the website, "the dictionary definition of 'About Face' is 'the act of turning to face in the opposite direction', and as such, was first used in the United States as a military command. It also means, 'a complete change of opinion or attitude'".

They encourage Zimbabweans to open their minds and change their opinions, and to move from pessimism to optimism, in order to encourage positive change and growth, to develop new attitudes, and to change their lives. And they hope that this theme will inspire an exciting 2010 edition of HIFA.



African Comics at the Quai Branly Museum

Catherine Haenlein

In February 2010, several African cartoonists and some experts on the African comic strip convened in Paris for a three-day conference to examine the current state of this artistic sector.

In 1960, the Togolese Pyabélo Chaold's *Le curé de Pyssaro* became the first comic

strip to be published in Africa. But that which is golden does not always glitter. The 50th anniversary of the African comic strip showed that the field still faces a range of obstacles. Organised by African, Caribbean and Indian Ocean comics expert Christophe Cassiau-Haurie, the conference aimed to examine how far this 'ninth art' has progressed in Africa and its future development.

Between 4 and 6 February, comic strip authors, editors, journalists, teach-

ers and museum curators from across Europe and Africa assembled in the museum's 'Salon de Lecture Jacques Kerchache' to listen to presentations by experts, view the film *Résistants du 9ème art* ('The undiminished 9th art') and enjoy a live demonstration by Congolese comic strip author, Pat Masioni. Lively debates took place about resources for the sector and other issues, for example, scarce funding for scriptwriters, the lack of European festivals dedicated to African comics and the saturation of the European market by Japanese 'Manga' comics.

As well as looking where current difficulties lie, the conference was an opportunity for a wide range of authors, editors and experts to come together, exchange ideas, and discuss future prospects in their respective fields. Contacts were made and practical proposals drawn up, such as future collaborations and networking activities, which will give a boost to this unique form of artistic expression as it enters the next 50 years of its existence.



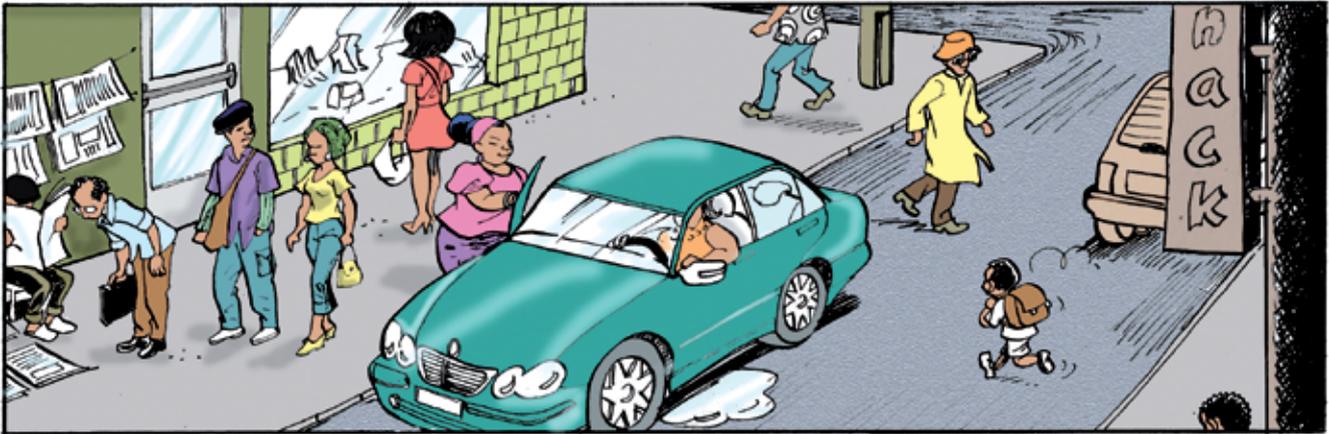
Chrisany, courtesy of Musée du quai Branly and the artist.



Didier Kassai, courtesy of Musée du quai Branly and the artist.

Competition for young ACP photographers

One day



CULTURAL CENTRE

Look...
A poster.



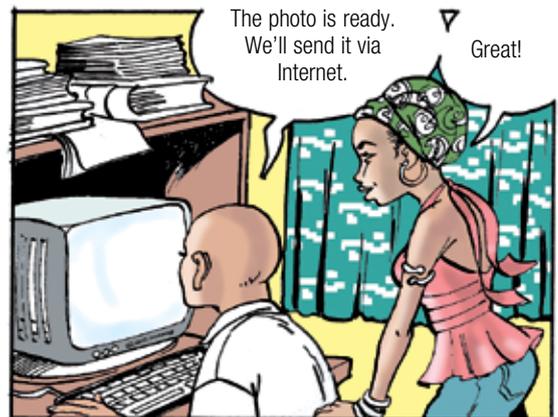
Fati and Gabriel decide on a photo report on street artists.

It's a photo competition launched by *The Courier* – especially for young people.

Yes. The themes are science and technology, culture, trade and climate change.



Our photos can be uploaded and displayed on *The Courier* website!



The photo is ready. We'll send it via Internet.

Great!



To participate, check out *The Courier*'s website from the end of April.

© Fifi MUKUNA 2010

Photography Competition

The Courier is holding a competition for young photographers from the ACP!

The themes are science and technology, culture (art and tradition), trade and climate change.

Prize: 1000 euros

Visit our website at the end of April to view the rules and vote!

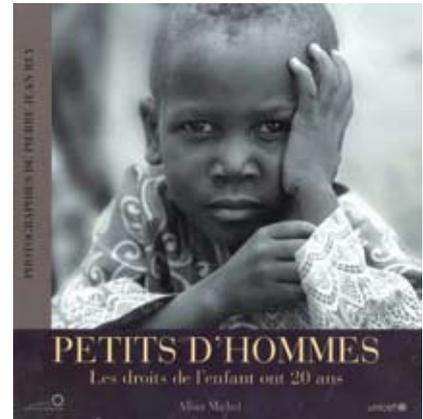
Words From Readers

The Courier would like to open up a dialogue on this edition's 'Youth' dossier. We invite our readers to send us feedback on the various issues covered. Feel free to email us at info@acp-eucourier.info or fax us at +32 2 2801406.

Book featuring photos from the 'Petits d'Hommes' (Man Cub) exhibition is now available

Petits d'hommes featuring photographs by Pierre-Jean Rey, published by Albin Michel, France, November 2009.

The 220-page book features portraits of children from around the globe, the majority having endured economic hardship, war, mafia injustices and other insanities. Each child was asked by the photographer to put across through facial expressions whatever he or she wanted to say, especially to children in other countries. The resulting compilation of photos is a portrayal of children who have suffered and whose suffering continues. Pierre Jean-Rey's life affirming photos communicate above all pride, dignity and courage. They were recently exhibited at the European Parliament to mark the 40th anniversary of the 'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie' (International Organisation of French Speaking nations).



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Agenda MAY-JULY 2010

May 2010

- 18 - 20/5
Lighting Africa 2010
 Nairobi, Kenya
 For more information:
<http://www.lightingafrica.org/node/414>
- 18 - 19/5
6th EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit
 Madrid, Spain
 For more information:
<http://www.eu2010.es/en/agenda/cumbrestercerospaises/evento01.html>
- 18-21/5
Science, Information Society and Space Africa-EU Partnership: Joint Expert Group meeting
 Durban, South Africa
- 19-21/5
IST-Africa 2010 Conference & Exhibition
 Durban, South Africa
 For more information:
<http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2010/default.asp>
- 24-28/5
Better Training for Food Safety regional workshop
 Bamako, Mali

- 26-28/5
eLearning Africa 2010
 Lusaka, Zambia
 For more information:
<http://www.elearning-africa.com/>

- 31/5 - 3/6
91st Session of the ACP Council of Ministers
 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

June 2010

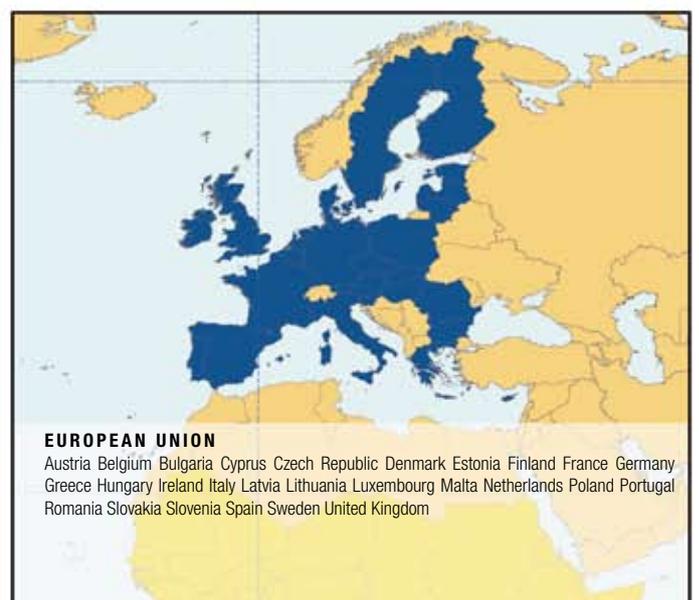
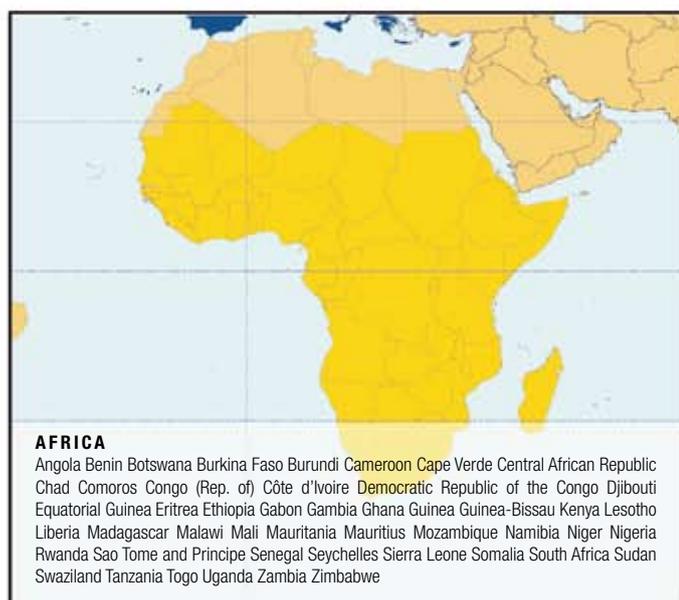
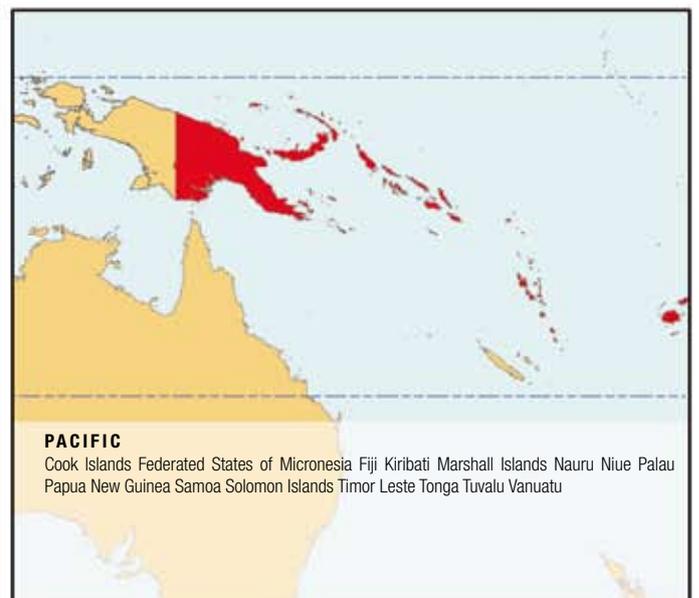
- 2-3/6
2nd Africa-France Business Meeting
 Bordeaux, France.
 For more information:
<http://www.africa-france-business.com/2010/index.php>
- 4/6
3rd Meeting of Regional Working Group on Culture
 Brussels, Belgium
- 9/6
AU-EU College-to-College meeting (tbc)
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (tbc)

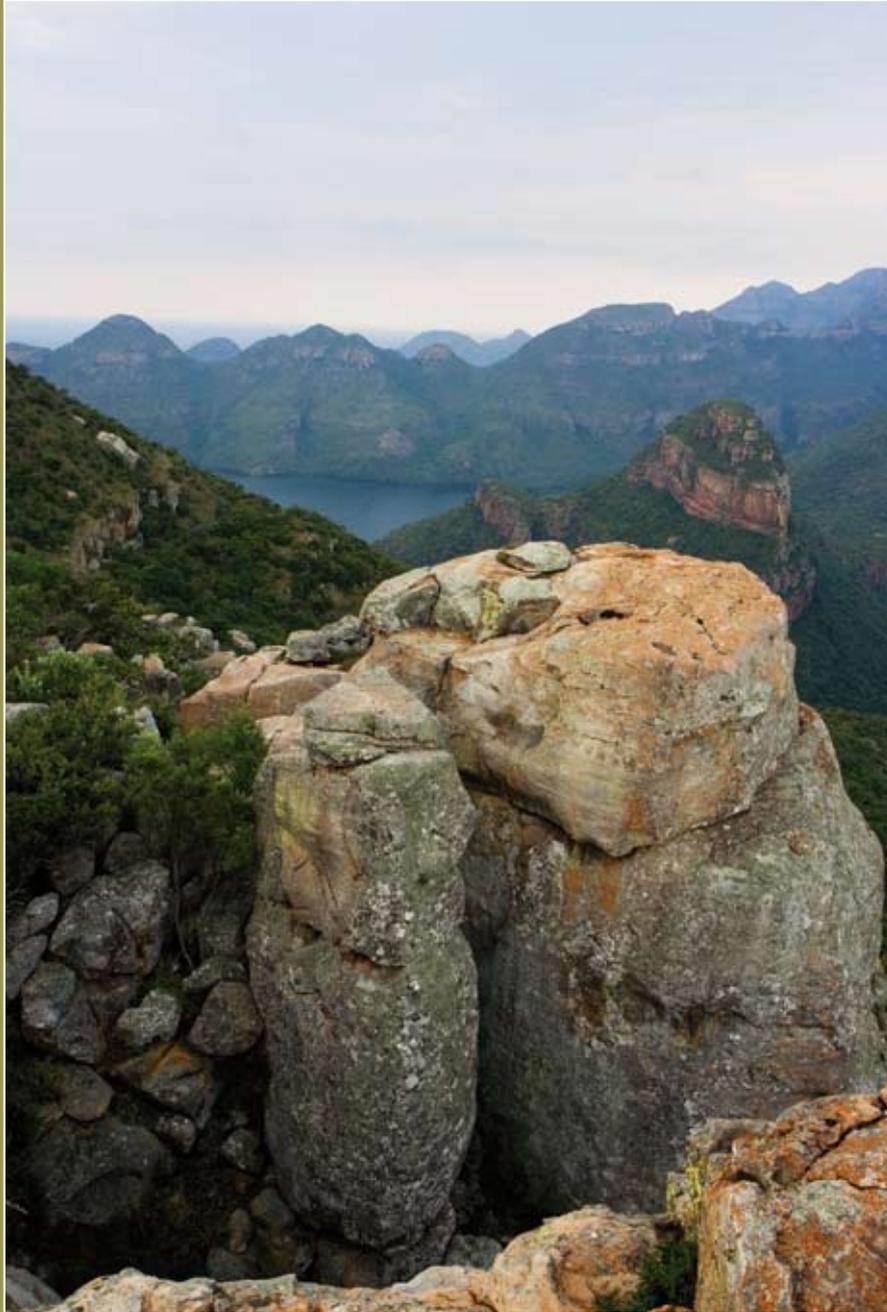
- 23/24 (tbc)
35th Session of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers
 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- 21-23/06
Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum 'The Heat is On: Climate Change and the Media'
 World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), Germany
 For more information: www.dw-gmf.de

July 2010

- 7-9/7
EESC regional seminar of ACP-EU Economic and Social Interest Groups
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 15-16/7
Workshop: Civil society and the Africa-EU Strategy
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 18-23/7
AIDS 2010 Conference
 Vienna, Austria
 For more information:
<http://www.aids2010.org/>

Africa – Caribbean – Pacific and European Union countries





Blyde River Canyon, South Africa. © Xavier Rouchaud