



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.
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Dear members and friends of JPG and YHFG,

we are happy to present our third JPG-Newsletter in which we have a lot to report.

Visit to Ghana

From 19 May to 19 June, JPG member Gero Frisch visited YHFG. During his stay he took part in the official opening of the Youth Center, he visited the congress of the EPEFA cooperative and helped organising the peanut shipment to Weleda Naturals. Furthermore, he took care of the computers at YHFG and in the youth center. The computer room in the youth center was put into operation and the YHFG staff received computer training.



Computer training with YHFG staff.

Opening of the Youth Center

On 13 June, the Youth Center in Bolgatanga was officially opened by the deputy minister of the Upper East Region Mrs Lucy Awuni. We also had the pleasure to welcome the regional representative of the Ghanaian Youth Council Mr James Daud Abang-Gos, representatives of the Bolgatanga chief palace and over 200 *Harvestclub** members and families. The event was accompanied by the youth with a drama and several dance performances.

The speakers underlined the great significance of the work of YHFG in general and in particular in the new Youth Center. Rising numbers of teenage pregnancies among Junior High School students show the need for reproductive health education already in this young age group.



Drama group: the HI-Virus cannot harm well protected youth (l), Launching of the YC (m), Choreography group (r).

Meanwhile, the computer courses in the Youth Center have started. The counseling by social worker Abigail Adumolga is frequently utilised by adolescents. For the youngest, in particular the Junior High School students, the Harvest Academy was initiated, where the children can participate in drama and choreography groups. About 90 boys and 15 girls take part in regular football training sessions.

Still, we are looking for laptops and printers for the computer room and Internet cafe and would very much appreciate any donations in kind to extend the computer training for the adolescents. Furthermore, with the copy shop, we wish to sustain the youth center by contributing to the running costs.

*Harvestclubs are the schoolsclubs that were founded within the YHFG projects.

Lots of News from the Sunuga peanut project

- With Weleda Naturals, a German cosmetics manufacturer, we agreed on a fair price for the peanut harvest 2008. After de-shelling we have packed and sent a test shipment of five tonnes of kernels to Germany.
- With the funding of the Italian NGO *Il Fuoco del Futuro* we could complete the buildings of EPEFA just in time before the beginning of the rainy season.
- The new project coordinator Rockson Ayebilla started his work for the Sunuga project. His first tasks comprise documentation and training of the farmers for the organic certification, which is just about to start. Furthermore, in the micro-credit scheme, he is assisting in the review of applications and supervision of the farmers.
- During the EPEFA congress on 30 May, the farmers discussed details of the micro credit scheme and regulations for granting of loans. With great motivation and enthusiasm they also discussed the upcoming planting season.
- Micro-credit funds: So far, 14 farmers groups have qualified for a micro-credit. Altogether 75 farmers have received 7560 GHC (ca. 3800 Euro). The first group which obtained their credit in April has started the monthly installment.



EPEFA buildings (l), EPEFA congress on 10 May (m), EPEFA farmer during the winnowing of the nuts (r).

Volunteer service in Ghana

With the German NGO *Weltweite Initiative für Soziales Engagement* (WISE) e.V. and via the *Weltwärts* program of the German government, we would like to send two volunteers to Bolgatanga in September 2009. Although we have already identified two very nice and dedicated high-school graduates, our plans are currently hampered by a travel warning of the German Foreign Office. This warning is referring to a tribal conflict which is restricted to the Bawku municipality and does not affect Bolgatanga; so despite time is running out, we still hope to convince the Foreign Office to issue a special permit.

International Registration - Transnational Giving Europe

In order to build a European network of friends and supporters of YHFG, JPG is currently applying for acknowledgement of its non-profit status through *Transnational Giving Europe*. After being evaluated by the German NGO *Maecenta International* we can register at their partner organisations such as *Oranje Fonds* in the Netherlands, *Charity Aid Foundation* in England and *Vita Giving Europe Onlus* in Italy. All donations, that JPG will receive in these countries will be relayed through these organisations and they will be able to issue tax effective receipts.

All our best wishes and we hope you are enjoying the summer,

Julia Leimkugel, Gero Frisch and Denis Petri; Board of JPG