

Dear friends,

I know this is a bit late, but let me start by wishing each of you a fulfilling year ahead.

The end of last year was a bit hectic on our end as I wanted to submit the 2010 books of accounts to the auditors before I left Kenya to return to Asia. After many hours during the Christmas period right past the new year, we finally finished closing the books and were able to submit our files to the audit firm, PKF Kenya, in Mombasa on 10th January 2011. We expect the 2010 audited accounts to be issued by early February and will post it on our website at www.tanariverlifefoundation.org. You may for now access the website for the audited reports from previous years up to 2009.

UTAR Scholarship for Tana River Life Foundation (TRLF) Students

I left Kenya on 11th January 2011 together with two new students who are now in UTAR - a private university in Kampar (near Ipoh) in Malaysia. Together with the two students who came last year to do a 1 year Foundation course, there are now four students, all from Tana Delta, studying at UTAR on full tuition scholarships. All four of them started their first semester degree studies yesterday, 17th January 2011 - Oscar Raha in Business Information Systems, Hamara Awadh in Electronic Engineering, while the two new ones, Keston Bonaya and Alex Musila are both doing Business Management.

This year I am here with Eddy Adison once again. Some of you may have met him last year. He will be with me on this trip to assist with the administrative work and the 'Mitumba' (Reusable Goods) Project. I also hope that his stay here can help him understand better the responsibilities and expectations that assistance and donor aid entails. He is one amongst a core group of former beneficiaries who are being formed and exposed to a greater extent with the hope that they will go on to do more under the umbrella of TRLF in the future.

2010 Projects

In 2010, in addition to the ongoing projects such as secondary and tertiary level educational assistance, youth formation and work with the women's group to increase their household incomes from sale of second hand clothes and other items, we also undertook two new projects.

(i) Garsen High School (GHS) Library and Bakery Construction

TRLF has been sponsoring the development of GHS since it started with a class of 16 students seven years ago. GHS is now the largest public secondary school in the district. Hamara Awadh is the first student from GHS to go on to tertiary studies.

In 2010, we finished putting up the fence, gate and guardhouse for the school. We also built a bakery and library cum audio visual room. The bakery will supply breakfast for the almost 500 students studying in GHS. In addition, if properly managed by the Principal and staff, it can also become a viable income generating project to sell bread to the surrounding towns and villages. Presently, all the bread in the area is either home baked or brought in daily from Malindi, a town situated 100 kms from Garsen.

The library is the first such facility in the entire district. It is at the moment unfurnished and I hope to be able to collect appropriate furniture, such as library shelves during this trip. We received a lot of books in the later part of 2010, collected and shipped over by friends from Singapore. The books are presently still stored in the TRLF containers and will be handed over to GHS together with the furniture hopefully before the start of Term 2 in May this year.

One other minor project carried out for GHS in 2010 was the development of an agro-forestry project for the school. This involved the fencing up of a small area set aside for the planting of trees to generate

income from sale of poles and hardwood when the trees mature. Besides the fence work, TRLF also assisted in building a tool store and watchman's room and the water storage system for this project.

All GHS development projects in 2010 were funded mainly by Jovinas Trust and another private trust which has requested to remain anonymous.

Sustainable Agriculture Project (SHB-SAP)

In addition to the formal educational projects, we also started a sustainable agriculture project (SHB-SAP) that is being carried out by the TRLF youth. The SHB-SAP is intended to be an informal educational project based outside the classroom in line with the TRLF mission of assisting in the holistic development of the human person. The project is being carried out on a 10 acre plot owned by TRLF in Idsowe village and comprises many small scale sustainable agriculture projects, such as bee-keeping, fish-farming, farming of vegetables and food crops such as maize, sweet potatoes and tapioca, fruit tree farming, as well as poultry and livestock keeping. Other than the basic infrastructure, i.e. the farmhouse for the watchman and his family, the fence and gates and the water storage and irrigation system, all the project activities involve low capital input. This is so that as the youth learn in a practical way how they can improve on household incomes, nutrition and quality of life by working on the land in a sustainable and affordable way, other local farmers may also benefit from their experience and attempt similar projects on their own small plots without being hampered by the need for high capital inputs. We hope that eventually, the farm will evolve into a sustainable agriculture training centre and be a model farm for the local small scale farmers. The Wesley Methodist Church in Singapore contributed a substantial amount towards the infrastructural costs of this project in 2010.

Educational Centre Project (ECP)

For 2011, besides developing the sustainable agriculture project, we also intend to begin construction of the Educational Centre Project (ECP). The ECP is intended to become a comprehensive community centre. Besides pre-primary and primary educational facilities, the ECP will also contain other community facilities such as a library, a computer centre, meetings-seminar-training facilities and a business centre for youth enterprises. It will also house the TRLF administrative office and contain accommodation facilities for staff, donors as well as the public. The 12 acre site of the proposed ECP was allocated to TRLF by the Idsowe Village Council of Elders and confirmed by the Tana River County Council in 2009. We have been paying rates for the land since 2009. The entire area was fenced up in 2009 and a topographical survey conducted in 2010. The architectural building plans are being designed by AEDAS Singapore and we hope to get more support in terms of expertise, materials and funding this year from various sources during our stay here. Since 2009, unutilized funds received from donors specifically for the ECP has been set aside in a fixed deposit account with CFC Stanbic Bank in Mombasa. There were two major donations towards this project in 2010, i.e. from MAJODI (Melaka Johor Catholic Diocese) and from a private individual donor in Singapore. The fixed deposit account had a balance of Ksh7,310,967 (approximately SGD116,000) as at 31st December 2010. Ksh310,967 (SGD4,945) represents interest earned from the account. Jovinas Trust has also pledged a dollar for dollar funding on all funds raised from other sources towards this project. We hope to be able to begin construction as early as May 2011 and ask for your prayers and support for this task.

Mitumba Project - Collection of Reusable Items for Resale

As in the past years, we will once again do a collection of used items for resale by the Dziavye Women's Group to increase their household income. Details of the collection period are in the attached appendix. I do apologize for the short notice period but hope you will be able to support this appeal. I am grateful to the Principals, staff and students of Holy Innocents' High School and St. Theresa's Convent in Singapore for assisting us with the logistics for the shipment of containers in 2010 and appeal for their kind support once again this year.

Appeal for Used School Furniture

In 2010, we received substantial amounts of used school furniture from various sources with the help of the Principals of St. Theresa's Convent and Holy Innocents High School. As in the past, we repainted the used desks and chairs and donated 100 sets to Marifano Secondary School and another 150 sets to Gadeni Secondary School. We hope to be able to collect more classroom and library furniture this year. We also distributed full sets of stationeries donated by students of St. Theresa's Convent to all children in Idsowe Primary School and the two nurseries in Idsowe village.

Fundraising Activities in Singapore in 2010

After we left Singapore at the end of April 2010, a group of friends continued to carry out several activities to raise funds in support of the education of rural girls from Tana Delta as well as the library books projects. I am grateful to Iris Tay and friends at Palate Sensations, Kitchen Capers and Ginger Garden (all in Singapore) for all their untiring efforts in funding and organizing bake sales and book collections and also arranging the shipment of an additional container load of items to Kenya in the later part of 2010. These efforts were complemented by a substantial funding from Jacqueline Teo specifically for the education of the girl child in the later part of the year.

Donor Visits to Tana Delta in 2010

We were blessed with several donor visit in 2010. In July, we had the Kong family - Kwok Wei, Wai Leng and their three kids, Jin, Ren and Kei visiting us followed by the Tan ladies, Clara, Angie and Imelda in August. Not long after we had a meeting in Nairobi with Ms. Eng Hwee Cheng and her brother followed by a weekend visit by Ong Wai Kin who was in Kenya on a business trip. Finally we had two 15 year old boys from Johor Bahru, Zachary Frank and Kevin Joseph who came and lived with us for almost a month in November. These visit have been enriching for our youth and students and I do believe for the visitors as well. Do let me know if you intend to visit in 2011 so we can make preliminary plans while in Asia.

UTAR Students Holiday Stays in Johor Bahru and Singapore

In September 2010 and January 2011, the two students from TRLF who are studying in UTAR in Malaysia were on term break. Oscar and Hamara visited Johor Bahru and Singapore on both occasions. I am grateful to the Teo family in Johor Bahru for giving them a sense of family life while in Malaysia. I am also grateful to Pauline Wong and her extended family, Julie Sng, Karen and Gary Tan, Iris Tay, Clara, Angie and Imelda Tan and many others in Singapore for their kind hospitality in looking after the two boys during their holidays and helping them appreciate in a deeper way what kindness and generosity means. I noticed a greater maturity and openness in both of them when we met in Kampar last week.

Programme for Asia Stay

Eddy and myself are now in Johor Bahru at my mum's place and will move to Singapore on Thursday 20th January 2011. We will be there until 31st January 2011 when we will return to Malaysia for 2 weeks for the Chinese New Year celebrations and donor meetings in Melaka and Kuala Lumpur. After that we return to Singapore and expect to be there until the end of March to finish all donor meetings and presentations as well as sort, pack and ship off all donated items from Singapore. We hope to get assistance for at least two containers this year to ferry the expected school (library and classroom) furniture, study aids (e.g. calculators, etc) as well as used clothes and other items.

While here, you may contact us via email at <gabrielteo@yahoo.com> or by phone at +65-92320222 (Singapore) or +60-127237040 (Malaysia). We look forward to meeting you to thank you personally, and to share more about the year past and plans for the year ahead. I am very grateful because this journey would not have been possible if not for God through you. God bless.

Gabriel Teo Kian Chong - Johor Bahru - 18th January 2011

Appendix

Tana River Life Foundation Mitumba Project

Dear Friends

We are collecting used items again this year for the Tana River Life Foundation (TRLF) projects and appeal for your contributions. The bulk of the items collected and shipped over will be given to the Dziavye Women's CBO for their resale to enable them increase their household incomes. This will enable the women to pay school fees and seek any required medical treatment for their families, or it could also enable them to repair/improve their homes or expand their small businesses, e.g. food kiosks.

1. Attached here is the list of items required. Kindly donate ONLY items as specified on the list so that we may make good use of the limited space available in the container.

2. The collection venue is the same as last year, i.e. at the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Upper Serangoon Road. We are grateful to Fr. Henry Siew and staff of the church for this assistance.

3. For map, go to http://www.streetdirectory.com/asia_travel/travel/travel_id_1724/travel_site_85524/

4. Please use the first entrance along Hougang Ave 8 leading to the Nativity Church Kindergarten (facing Punggol Park). DO NOT use the main entrance to the church facing Upper Serangoon Road or the second entrance along Hougang Ave 8 as you will not be able to reach the collection point.

5. Please contact Eddy Adison at 92320222 once you get into the car park so he can come down to meet you to collect your items. The storage room is on the second floor of the building.

6. Kindly do not leave your items in the car park.

7. Please note the collection times as indicated below:

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|-----------|--------|--------------------|
| Saturday | 22 Jan | 9.00 am to 7.00 pm |
| Sunday | 23 Jan | 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm |
| Monday | 24 Jan | 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm |
| Tuesday | 25 Jan | 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm |
| Wednesday | 26 Jan | 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm |
| Thursday | 27 Jan | 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm |
| Friday | 28 Jan | 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm |
| Saturday | 29 Jan | 9.00 am to 7.00 pm |
| Sunday | 30 Jan | 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm |

Please note that we will not be at the collection points outside of the above stated collection times and dates.

8. If you have any questions on the above, kindly send me an email at eduzeeja@yahoo.com or gabrielteo@yahoo.com or call me at the number given above. You may also visit our website at www.tanariverlifefoundation.org for more information.

9. We would appreciate volunteers to help in sorting and packing the clothes during the collection period as well as for a short period after the Chinese New Year. Please let me know if you are able to assist us. In addition, we will also need standard medium sized strong empty carton boxes, OP tapes and double sided tapes when packing and labeling the boxes. The boxes should not be too large so that loading and unloading the container will be easier.

Thank you and God bless,
Eddy Adison Zilot - 17 Jan 2011