

NEWSLETTER

NEWS OF THE POLIO HOME PROJECT - DOMINGHIA, GUINEA, WEST AFRICA

Happy New Year And - to our Chinese Friends & Family On February 3rd - Happy New Year of the Rabbit !



PAMOJA WEST AFRICA

PAMOJA is a Swahili word meaning "togetherness". For some years this word and theme has been mobilized by the international organization thus named, and chapters and sub-chapters have been formed in Africa. Its mandate is to foster local NGOs to work together and promote programs in alphabetization, gender rights and issues, and poverty reduction. Some months ago our staff in Guinea represented the benefit of becoming a member of *PAMOJA WEST AFRICA* and *PAMOJA GUINEA*. Le Groupe Lyceum would thus become partnered with at least 35 local NGOs with a common goal and purpose. LGL staff attended a planning meeting in October held in Conakry, and following that Fatoumata Dabo was invited to attend the *General Assembly of Pamoja West Africa* in Banjul, The Gambia. That work session

and conference was sponsored by DVV International (*Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association*) from Bonn, Germany and was held the first week of November.

Thirteen West African country delegates participated in formal objective setting and program design. The conference was conducted in French, English and Portuguese. Fatoumata contributed actively, and returned to Conakry enriched with new contacts and new collaborators sharing common goals and objectives. LGL is very proud to be a member of *PAMOJA WEST AFRICA*, and we congratulate Fatoumata for spearheading this potential role for our growth in the New Year and beyond!

Stability In Guinea?

President Alpha Conde is firmly at the helm of the first democratically elected government in the Republic of Guinea after his inauguration in late December. Though facing daunting odds in the impoverished country with a shattered infrastructure devolved over decades, there are many positive signs that Guinea will break its fetters of military dictatorship and emerge to write a new history of hope and reconciliation. Who is Alpha Conde? This answer may be found in excerpted comments published by *Reuters* on Monday, November 15, 2010:



*Guinea's new President.
Alpha Conde*

Guinea's Conde Emerges from the Shadows

"After more than 50 years in the shadows of Guinean politics, veteran opposition leader Alpha Conde has emerged into the spotlight, winning the West African country's first free presidential poll since independence.

Conde, 73, a former assistant professor at the Sorbonne (in France), won an upset victory over ex-premier Cellou Dalein Diallo in a November 7 run-off.

Conde has weathered many storms as chief critic of past governments: exile and a death sentence under former dictator Sekou Toure, prison under General Lansana Conte, and insults under former junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara.

As Guinea's (new) president, the challenges he faces include a military in need of reform, an ethnically divided population, limited basic infrastructure, and an outdated mining code (in the mineral rich country)."

The work of LGL in Guinea and West Africa stands poised after eight years of slow but steady growth under very complicated circumstances, to now break free and grow strongly under the new democratic largely-civilian government. Let us be hopeful and responsible stakeholders, and pray for peace and stability in Guinea and its almost 12 million citizens.

FACTOIDS

- Mrs. Edie Mullen of Grand Manan Island had to postpone her fourth volunteer visit to Guinea by one month due to an infected tooth. She will now leave at the end of January to spend at least three months at Dominghia. We wish her good health and a wonderful reunion with all her good friends and "family" in Guinea!

- We are delighted to welcome a new employee for LGL in Guinea! John William Boure has been seconded to Dominghia by the Anglican Diocese to take up the increasing workload of rural business development - a role he is well trained to fill. In our next newsletter, we will feature a picture of John and a brief biography. Welcome, John!
 - With the kind help of donors, the microfinance program is poised to grow from about 20 loans in 2010 to 80 qualified loans to rural recipients in 2011. Part of this expansion is made possible by John Boure joining us, and also by donations to the microfinance allocation of funds. We have successfully helped rural entrepreneurs in the Boffa District so far, but will expand the program reach to the Loos Islands, Siguiroi and Telemele areas of Guinea. Small donations are needed to increase our capital from about \$4,000 to \$8,000 to allow this to happen. Please consider helping with this!
 - Dr. Ken Keirstead will arrive in Conakry on January 26th for management meetings, stakeholder visits, welcoming Edie, and working at Dominghia for two weeks to advance work.
 - Two young medical doctors at the University of California (Andrew Eads and Rod Mortazavi) are graciously donating their time and energy to edit and comment professionally on the ***Murcar Training Manual for Rural Health Workers*** that we expect to launch in February in Guinea (in French) to start rural training programs in health care and wellness. Thank you Andrew and Rod - and the UCI Africa Initiative! We hope that Guinea can mirror the useful training now occurring in Haiti using this excellent training tool. About twenty "graduates" who have trained in Haiti are now actively assisting in the health epidemic in that country.
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A NEW HEALTH CARE OASIS IS BEING BUILT AT DOMINGHIA !

Trucks are hauling building supplies (as we write this) from Conakry to Dominghia! Within two weeks, mostly volunteer workers will start the foundation for the next medical block at the ***Noreen and Ryan Home***. We were delayed some months mostly due to the political uncertainty leading up to President Conde forming a new government, but now the paths are cleared for a new small hospital/clinic to be built. It is fortuitous that we had to be patient and wait, as the huge demands on our clinic have exceeded anything we could forecast. A clinic is just not enough to respond to the pent-up demand for health care training and intervention in the catchment area of 15,000 rural inhabitants that we serve. The project scope now demands a small hospital/clinic with examination rooms, two two-bed "wards", a birthing room (there is none close by), a dispensary, and offices for medical staff.



The first phase now starting will see ground preparation, foundation and floor, underground plumbing, and the start as soon as possible of the cement block walls.



Help is coming from everywhere! Individual donors, Rotary Clubs, church groups, and corporate donors are allowing this to happen. Let us share with you some of the other "miracles".

A donor and affiliate in China (Mr. Xuezhi Li) has donated blood glucose testing equipment and supplies; *Shoppers Drug Mart* in Fredericton, through owner Brian Barry, donated pill counting trays; and a young newly graduated MD in Guinea has agreed to work at the Dominghia station and help Dr. Adama Balde.

These are just some of the "miracles"!

APPEAL!

We urgently need the donation of a binocular microscope to allow accurate diagnosis of malaria and some sexually transmitted infections. We have raised about \$10,000 so far for the clinic/hospital, but we need that much again to be able to get the walls and roof closed in before the rainy season starts again in late May. Please help.

YOU can help this project by forwarding this Newsletter to at least ten contacts and friends you feel would like to be kept up to date! Thank you.

Contributions in Canada can be made to
The Grand Manan Rotary Memorial Trust Fund and given, or mailed to:
Mrs. Edie Mullen, 1071 Route 776, Grand Manan, NB E5G 4E5
Email: ediemullen@lyceumresearch.com

A tax receipt and a commemorative card will be mailed within a few weeks to you.

You may contact us in Canada:
The Lyceum Group, 541 Charlotte Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 1M1
Email: kkeirstead@lyceumresearch.com

In Guinea:
ONG Groupe Lyceum
Cameroun Corniche Nord,
BP 2118, Conakry, Guinea
Email: fatmadabo@lyceumresearch.com