



Meeting Minutes Vocational Training Centre Kilema/Tanzania November 2015

Location: Kilema, Tanzania

Date: 27th to 29th of November 2015

Participants from Tanzania:

Entire project team with Father Dr. Aidan Msafiri, Thobias Makundi, Sr. Innocentia, Anthony Benedict, etc.

Participants from Austria:

Walter Koch / Chairman of PAPA Bridge, Karin Oswald / Sponsorship Program

Summary



In a nutshell you can say that we again made some steps forward, in some areas more than in others. The new focus is now on the Business Development Center (BDC) which we want to promote the VTCs self-financing with. The local team is very motivated and sets the correct focus.

Visiting the village

This time we spent three days in the village. From Friday, 27th of November to Sunday 29th of November 2015. The Board meeting was held on the first day where all decision-makers were present and important decisions were made. On the second day we had the pleasure to attend the VTCs graduation ceremony and to hand over certificates to the graduates. On the third day, there we had a working meeting with the core team to plan further actions. The next few paragraphs will explain the different areas in detail.



Running of the school



After the final examinations were successfully completed by the end of November, the vocational school closes until the new school year begins again in mid-January 2016. We expect about 150 students in total for the next year.

Staff and educational contents

As already mentioned several times, our management team with principal Makundi, Sr. Innocentia and Anthony Benedict does a great job. As we want to gradually increase the quality of the school, we decided to replace three more teachers so that more experience and know-how comes into the courses. Especially teachers are an important key to success!



Business Development Center (BDC)



One of the key decisions from the board meeting was that we decided to establish a new business development center (BDC). The aim is now to ensure a separation between education and production.

Principal Makundi and Sr. Innocentia will focus on vocational education at the VTC. Anthony Benedict on the other hand will be involved as the center manager at BDC.

Therefore, Anthony will set up a business plan and put together a team of former top graduates. P.A.P.A.-Bridge will then kick-start the BDC's developed project, meaning to initiate them financially.

The aim of the BDC is to generate ongoing sales and thus profits. The total running costs of the vocational schools should be covered this way, starting from end of 2017, so that a high degree

of independence can be achieved and P.A.P.A.-Bridge can start a new project.

Photovoltaic

The subject of photovoltaic is becoming increasingly important in Africa because the local power supply is extremely poor. Even in our vocational school we suffer blackouts several times a week.

For this reason we want to start a seminar for Solar Technology and also offer starter kits (solar panels, battery and electronics). Thus, our professional school could be a know-how hub on photovoltaic in the region.



The carpentry workshop

We have almost finished the building of the carpentry workshop. It basically just lacks the screed and windows. The completing costs add up to about EUR 4.000,-. This money is to be earned through the sale of self-produced bricks by the vocational school. The carpentry workshop completion can therefore happen until spring 2016.



The water project

We made formal progress regarding the water project. We were able to receive the necessary water quality certificates, which now confirm the quality of drinking water.

We currently try to get an approval from the Government Office for local production. Likewise, we need an empty bottle production, which we currently do not have. These open points determine the next steps of work in Kilema.



The sponsorship program



Our Sponsorship Program is proceeding on schedule. This time we were able to personally hand over the certificates to graduates who have been supported by Austrian godparents. At this point we would like to thank our 30 godparents for their loyal support!

Like every year, there are some changes at the beginning of a new school cycle (mid-January 2016). Reasons for this are, of course, our successful graduates who have left school, but also a variety of relocation and changes in families. Therefore, Karin Oswald, which is responsible for the sponsorship program, will work together with Anthony Benedict and then find the best solutions with the godparents. The sponsorship program is definitely an important contribution in order to give the poorest families in the village a chance to the vocational training.

Next steps

- Heinz Sackl will travel to Kilema in early 2016. With a team he is going to give instructions for the metal fabrication equipment
- In July 2016, Father Aidan is celebrating his 25th year priest-anniversary and Father Josef will travel with a group to Tanzania.
- In August /September 2016, Father Aidan is going to visit Austria again and we will celebrate our PAPA-Bridge Feast of Africa.



At this point once again a big thank you to our donors and supporters of PAPA-Bridge. This is an important and great service to the poorest people in Tanzania.

Best wishes and God's blessing,
Walter Koch - Chairman
Father Aidan - Tanzania
and the Board of P.A.P.A. Bridge