



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OGCEYOD celebrates World Environment Day 2009 1
 Cont Pg 2

INTERACTION LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP 1
 Cont Pg 2

PROBLEMS YOUTHS FACE IN CAMEROON 3

BACK TO SCHOOL: WHAT FUTURE FOR OUR CAMEROON KIDS 4

ABOUT OGCEYOD 4

OGCEYOD Celebrates World Environment Day 2009

In line with commemorating the World Environment Day on the 5th of June, the Organization for Gender, Civic Engagement and Youth Development, OGCEYOD alongside GLOFEED and ASYUSED, organized a nine-day sensitization campaign on the dangers of Climate Change based on the theme for WED 2009, Your Planet Needs YOU: Unite to Combat Climate Change. The activities which ran from the 27th of May to the 5th of June, focused on enlightening members of women and youth religious groups in Limbe, Cameroon, on the causes of Climate Change which range from Man's activities such as burning of plastics, poor waste disposal methods, deforestation which has led to the accumulation of Greenhouse gases like, Carbon dioxide, Nitrous Oxide, Water Vapor etc in the atmosphere to natural and climatic processes which have greatly influenced Climate Change.

According to the facilitators, all of these stem from the fact that man's quest for resources is always increasing as a result of an upsurge in

the world's population. They went on to highlight some evidences of climate change which are the very hot dry season, small streams which were existing a decade ago are dried up, just to name a few. The effects which are already evident are the increase in the malaria parasite and skin diseases. They then gave examples of the various means of combating Climate Change such as proper disposal of waste, afforestation as well as family planning. The participants were also encouraged to always keep themselves informed on environmental issues in text books, Newspapers, radio and Television especially National geographic channel etc.

It is worth mentioning that the participants of the Central Mosque N° 1 made contributions like most rivers in the villages in the Northern parts of Cameroon are drying up. They mentioned that these

rivers were flowing when they were young but have dried up. Imam Pekassa INOUSSA also raised the point that the planting of trees should be monitored because trees like the Eucalyptus when planted by river banks also suck up the water. He also added that this tree sucks up 30 litres of water per day so its



FAKO WOMEN FORUM

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Development stories in all areas
- Social/Societal Challenges
- Economic Challenges
- Success Stories
- Event/Activity Publicity

TRAINING TODAY'S LEADERS

An interaction Leadership program was organized by Mrs. Bernice MBOME, Coordinator of Youth United towards Excellent Living (YUTEXCEL) in partnership with the Organization for Gender, Civic Engagement and Youth Development (OGCEYOD) represented by its CEO, Mr. Elvis WEPNGONG on the 17th of June, 2009 at the Government Teachers' Training College Mile Four, South West Region Of Cameroon . The workshop was organized as a continuation of the Inter Action Leadership, Project Management and Information Technology Training workshop

that was organized by the British Council and sponsored by the British High Commission in Cameroon on the 9th to the 13th of February 2009 at the Pan-African Institute Buea. The workshop was organized to improve leadership skills so as to promote good governance. During the workshop, Mr. Wepngong said the interaction Leadership program provides opportunities for working differently by challenging the ways we think and act by focusing

on: Appreciation, Goodwill and Good intent, Be the change to enable others, the power of affirmatively disruptive Questions and Valuing the magic of Difference. He then went on to state the two challenges of Appreciative Inquiry which consist of having a responsibility to honor our successes and learning best from what is working. The participants were also drilled on the chaos in communication and the TICing Model. It was on this note that Mrs. Mbome went further to describe the factors ticking in the head and/or mind of an individual when he/she is in a conversation with another which include:

UP COMING EVENTS

- Volunteering Program
- Mentoring Program
- Career/Job Fair 2009
- Climate Change seminar
- Environmental Education for Schools in the South West Region



OGCEYOD CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2009

planting should not be encouraged by river banks. Mr. Uba Muhammed further pointed out that they have also noticed variance in day and night. He said that their praying times have changed for some time now. They usually pray at 6pm in the evening when night is approaching but now they have shifted praying time to about 7pm and he wondered if this was an effect of Climate Change.

The Christian Women Fellowship of Presbyterian Church Down

a tree even if he/she doesn't benefit from the fruits there of but all the blessing goes to him/her when others consume from that tree. Mr. Agbor Hanson asked the organizers of the sensitization program to caution HYSACAM (waste disposal company) on their waste disposal methods and said that if scientist could come out with a chemical that could hasten the growth of trees but has no effect on the soil or the environment, it will be good for reforestation. He also said that the Government of Cameroon should en-

beach also brought to light the burning of rubber by women to light the wood to prepare meals and they equally pointed out that it was really wrong. The Dorcas sisters of the Baptist Church also made that same observation and proposed that Government should take the companies in charge of cleaning the streets and picking up refuse from people's houses to the small communities because they don't have proper waste dis-

posal methods.

force policies on deforestation and also sensitize the fishermen in Mamfe to stop fishing with chemicals. The Catholic women fellowship on their part asked the facilitators to advise them on the kind of trees they should plant in their farms and near their houses since the planting of the eucalyptus sucks all the water present around the area where it is planted. and were being advised to go for the planting of trees that will bear fruits

Most of these groups encouraged tree planting exercises by all and the resource persons encouraged groups to make a commitment to plant these trees.

Imam Musa Bala of the Central Mosque N° 1 said that Allah in his teaching has always fought for the protection of the environment and it is their duty to do the same. Imam Ibrahim also added that in their religion for example a Muslim should plant

they like best like mango, pear, orange, etc. In should be noted that as part of activities to mark the event a radio program was organized by the EDEN radio Limbe, with Mr. Elvis Wepngong as guest speaker. The radio talk focused on the role of women in combating Climate Change.

In all 12 church groups with over 900 participants were sensitized. Africa,



TALK WITH THE MUSLIMS

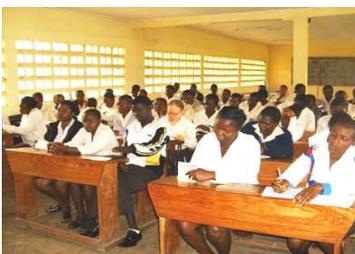
"sensitize the fishermen in Mamfe to stop fishing with chemicals".

TRAINING TODAY'S LEADERS

T-Time, I-Internal and C- Context.

It is worth mentioning that the participants took part in in-and-outdoor exercises which had as objective to portray the surfacing of leaders in a group, essence of team work and communication, bad leadership, decision making within a group, etc. At the end of the workshop, the Vice principal Mrs. Christy ENAW, who also took part in the training urged the organizers to organize similar trainings at the start of each academic year for the graduating batch of the school. She said it will give the students a sense of maturity in their thinking and actions, and also spur them to be creative and proactive in all school activities. She also appre-

ciated the in and out door exercises which also fell in line with part of their training for these student teachers, who are equipped to start teaching in the institutions where they will be posted by the government..



Participants during session

VOLUNTEER WITH OGCEYOD

The volunteer program will permit Cameroonians and other nationalities worldwide to work for a period of time with OGCEYOD based on an agreed contract between OGCEYOD and volunteer (s).

The objectives of the program are:

- To strengthen the commitment of young people in the corporation development field.
- To promote intercultural exchange between volunteers and the local population.
- To learn with others; to help disadvantaged persons and become aware of and engage in sustainable development.
- To strengthen the civil society and assist local partners.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Fundraiser**
- **Accountant**
- **Program Officers (4)**
- **Communication Officer**

Internship opportunities are also available. Summit your motivation Letter and CV to the Director of Administration and Finance through the email: ogceyod@yahoo.com or Contact the N°: +237 33 07 66 37 or +237 77 14 38 94 for any inquiries. You can also contact us by post using the address below:

P.O. BOX 1006, LIMBE
SOUTH WEST REGION
CAMEROON

PROBLEMS YOUTHS FACE IN CAMEROON

The youths are the future of every nation and the leaders of tomorrow, yet they are being marginalised in our society. Youths in Cameroon are plagued with multiple and complex problems and when you see a Cameroonian youth, so many things come to mind; a bleak future caused by unemployment and poverty, insecurity, alcoholism just to name a few.

The rate of unemployment in Cameroon is quite alarming and a majority of youths are affected either

Also, ineffective employment structures such as Fond de Garantie d'Aide aux Petite et Moyennes Entreprises "FOGAPE" AND THE National Employment Fund "NEF" set up by the state for the creation of youth employment opportunities. Sources reveal that amidst the obscure administrative formalities, the prevailing corruption of top officials running these institutions have collapsed existing initiatives and projects and only relationships count in getting jobs.

Furthermore, the access of young people to public employment and professional state institutions such

Furthermore, due to the existing poverty whereby parents can not afford for the needs of their young ones, they have resorted to internet scamming and cyber prostitution. Some have resorted to armed banditry, drug and alcoholism as well as prostitution, this caused by idleness encouraging them to mix up with bad company and the result, the adoption of these vices. This has caused lack of commitment among youths and many are disillusioned as many think "Nothing good can come out of Cameroon".

Therefore, the lack of access to

directly or indirectly. Many youths are unemployed and this can be attributed to some institutional inadequacies.

First of all, the poor adaptability of vocational training institutions of learning and methodology to the country's socio-economic context. Universities are more concerned with theoretical aspects forgetting practical work is more important than theory, making the graduates a little above

as EMIA, ESSEC, IRIC, ENSET, ENAM and ENS have been made a difficult race not only by the "limited chances offered" but by the present induction of "the moral deviating proposal" (i.e. Homosexuality or prostitution) as exchange.

Finally, the poorly structured and integrated informal sector which employs nearly 94% of the active youth labour force, including 55.2% in the agricultural sector; providing the highest opportunities of economic placement. Yet the av-

constructive alternatives fastened with poor context driven and adaptability education paradigms have spurred up "a sense of vulnerability, uselessness and idleness" within this group. Infact, young people face a whole range of problems, which can cause distress and even mental ill health with issues like exam pressures, bullying, family problems and bad relationships causing huge stress. It is estimated that one in five young people experience mental health problems.

unskilled labour. That is why the government is being urged to look into the employment policy by giving youths the opportunity to do internships in the government sector e.g. youth service for one year to enable them gain experience. It is worth noting that the inability of youths to write good curriculum vitae and how to present oneself for interview are some of the challenges youths face in getting employed.

erage monthly income of young people engaged in this sector remains the lowest and the "Minimum Professional Salary Guaranteed Laws" (SMIG) remain ignored.

Due to this high rate of unemployment many youths and families have resorted to continental Exodus. Immigration to Europe which itself carries the likelihood of engagement in risky activities and behaviours such as drug abuse or drug use, sexual promiscuity or gang related activity.

Therefore, the government, civil society organisations and youths themselves are being called upon to put hands on deck before the problem goes beyond reversal.



Cameroonian Youths

"Universities are more concerned with theoretical aspects forgetting practical work is more important than theory, making the graduates a little above unskilled labour"

Donate to OGCEYOD

Feel free to donate to the realization of our projects which are geared towards addressing needs in our communities. The title of some of these projects are:

- **BROILER (TABLE BIRDS) PRODUCTION FOR INCOME GENERATION**
- **REHABILITATION OF WOMEN AND SCHOOL DROPOUTS INTO FASHION DESIGNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
- **CAREER / JOB FAIR**
- **TAKING LIBRARY MOBILE FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW**
- **REVAMPING THE COCOA SECTOR IN THE EKOMBE BONJI LOCALITY**

You can donate directly to:

A/C N° 10029-00025-01011661207 32
Swift Code: ecocmcx

Or contact us directly for a detail project submission for funding.

We are on the web!

www.ogceyodcameroon.page.tl

OGCEYOD

CARR STREET, NEWTOWN

B.P. 1006, LIMBE

SOUTH WEST REGION

CAMEROON

Phone: (+237) 33 07 66 37, 94 33 37 66
74 21 54 97

E-mail: ogceyod@yahoo.com



TOGETHER LETS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ABOUT OGCEYOD

BRIEF HISTORY

This Non-governmental organization was created on the 17th of July 2005 by young talented and proactive Cameroonians as Pollution Free Environment (POFEN) with its main objective being combating environmental hazards. It then went on to modify its name, vision, mission and objectives to meet the pressing challenges of Cameroonians. This change gave birth to Organization for Gender, Civic Engagement and Youth Development (OGCEYOD) with its target groups youth (Priority) and women of Cameroon.

VISION

To improve the standard of living of the underprivileged youths and women in various walks of life through gender sensitive programs.

MISSION

To set up strategies to provide education, gender equality, good health and sustainable development for the underprivileged.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE

Identify, Develop and/or implement sustainable development strategies and projects to curb poverty.

WHAT WE DO

OGCEYOD intervenes in the following areas:

- Education
- Employment
- Environment
- Agriculture
- HIV/AIDS

When OGCEYOD Identifies a community development need in our target areas through the community members, we;

- Research on community problem to be sure that there is really a problem and that needs to be resolved
- Design a project proposal with solutions to that need,

- Fundraise for material and financial resources to address the need,
- Implement proposal to resolve the need
- Evaluate to be sure that the problem has been solved.

ACTIVITIES

Activities include; Education and Professional Training, capacity building, advocacy and lobbying, research, exchange visits, recreation, and Community volunteer Service.

SUPPORT

OGCEYOD gets its support from local and international donor organizations and individuals. These supports are program based and are either material or financial.

Back to school: What Future For Our Cameroon Kids

It's the beginning of another academic year in Cameroon and many kids are excited to go to school either for the very first time or to get into a new class. Some of these kids are in brand new uniforms, carry new school bags with all their text and exercise books, have paid all their fees and of course the school year looks very promising for them. But while these selected few are content, a majority are out there wondering if they would even go to school.

Many Cameroonian kids are from very poor homes with parents who can barely feed and clothe them considering the high unemployment and underemployment rate in the country. Sometimes, these parents struggle to make ends meet and with increasing responsibilities some of the older kids are forced to drop out of school so the younger ones can attain a minimal level of education that is if the parents can afford even that. Our kids go to school in torn uniforms, less than the required books with empty, grumbling stomachs, in fact how can they excel in such conditions. It will be surprising to note that a majority of these kids are quite promising but due to lack of funds, drop out of school and in a bid to support their families at such tender ages, get into negative activities like internet scamming, theft etc. What a waste of talent.

While some can at least boast of poor families, some have no one to call family. How can such even think of school. They are being taken into homes as babysitters or companions from even the tender age of four and don't even know what the four walls of a classroom is.

As we strive to achieve the millennium development goals with basic education for all by 2015 as one of them, it is our obligation to help these kids in need. That is why we have up with the MENTORING program, and we are hereby encouraging you to assist these kids and make their young, bleak dreams come true by donating something that will be geared towards their education and you will in turn receive updates on their activities and communicate with them and their families/ guardians. The mentoring program is a powerful personal development and empowerment tool that will help boys and girls between the ages of 3-18 in our communities who have been left to find their own recreation and companionship in the streets. Young people need to know that someone cares about them. This program will promote and enhance development in boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.

Donate \$25

or more to

enable us

meet our

\$1,111 target

for each of

our 40kids.



InterAction Leadership Workshop Participants

EDITORIAL TEAM

PUBLISHER:
ELVIS WEPNGONG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
ELEH EDIE ETOKE CECILE

PROJECT COORDINATOR:
ASAAH GIDEON