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### **Vakoka Vakiteny...**

...is a young and professional publishing company producing literature for children and youth in Malagasy language.

...is owned and run by a dynamic team of young Malagasy.

...contributes to growth and development in Madagascar - culturally and materially.

...promotes the joy of reading and develops the understanding for literature and art in a modern Malagasy environment.

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# **Vakoka Vakiteny News**

## **Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny.**

This time we write from Oslo where Sophie has begun her studies in Comparative and International Education. We will be in Germany and Norway during the current school year and will coordinate the work for Vakoka Vakiteny from here. We have also some committed co-workers in Madagascar whom we have entrusted many tasks. They will be presented to you in this newsletter.

Since we have met some of you during the summer holidays and others of you follow our blog, there may be some repetition in the news presented in this newsletter. However we hope that you still will enjoy reading it.

*Mparany Rakotondrainy*

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

## **New coworkers in Madagascar**

In order to not cease all activity while we will be away, we have found two new coworkers within Vakoka Vakiteny: Mrs Hanta and Elysé.

Mrs Hanta, a former teacher and socially active woman agreed on doing the administrative work. She has already been at the printing house four times since we left and taken the finished books to Antsirabe. There she has distributed books to schools and also presented the new books to different organizations and agencies. She will also administer the

payments to the printing house. She frequently reports to us about distribution, sale and other activities.

Elysé will besides his work in the eco tourism sector organize the correction of the Malagasy translation of the German book about Todisoa written by Nasrin Siege. He will receive the corrected version from the proofreaders and communicate with us about the changes to be made. Then he will give the corrected document to a new reviewer if necessary.



## Three new books

Before we left Madagascar we went to the printing house and collected samples of the three new books:

### 1- Ampanirio

Ampanirio is the environment book written by youth from Antsirabe during a workshop in November last year. We did only catch the very first copies before we left, but now Mrs Hanta has reported that all the 2000 copies are ready and brought to Antsirabe. Already before the summer holidays she did the official handover of the book to the three schools and the youth organization Green Pilots. Now the rest of the books will follow so that they are ready to be used when the school year begins. We have also sent some copies to Green Living in Stavanger who organized the workshop and funded the printing. The feedback we have received from them is positive saying that they are satisfied with the end result of this project. We hope that they will continue to use Vakoka Vakiteny for new projects in the future and that other organizations also will consider using us for publishing their works.

### 2- Fantaro ny nosintsika

After having written last newsletter and directly before it was printed, the geography book changed its name from “Ny tanindrazantsika ao anaty sary sy fanazavana” to “Fantaro ny nosintsika” which means “Get to know our island”.

It was printed in June and we could see the first copies before we left. The glue that sticks the back of the books to the inside was quite weak. Therefore the printing house agreed to improve this. Yet we are satisfied with the quality and have already handed over some copies to sponsors in Germany and Norway.

The last news from Mrs Hanta is that the printing house proposes that the whole cover has to be changed to another type of paper. Mrs Hanta negotiates with them and we hope that the books soon will be finished. Still she has already had the chance to present the book to several schools in Antsirabe and has received good feedback on it.



### 3- Second edition of Dangeligny sy Konaky—Ilay dia tsy nampoizina

When we went to the printing house to collect the first copies of the other two books we also took a look at the second edition of our very first book from 2007, Dangeligny sy Konaky. This was also supposed to be finished, however there had been a mistake with the machine so that some of the pictures had been a little displaced. It is now being reprinted again and all the 500 copies are expected to be finished within two weeks.

Apart from the displaced pictures we are very satisfied with this book. The paper has very good quality as it is quite thick and not glossy. We also feel that it now is more attractive and easier to read as we have changed the style of the pictures and the text.

## Todisoa

The manuscript of the youth novel about the street girl Todisoa written by the German author Nasrin Siege was delivered to the first proofreader before we left Madagascar in June. However as there have been summer holidays it has not yet been finished and delivered to Elysé. As soon as the school start again in the beginning of October we hope to be able to review it and make it ready to be checked all over again by another proofreader.

Our illustrator for this book, Nassar from Sakaraha still works on the pictures and he continuously delivers new pictures to Mrs Hanta.



## Web page

Mparany has taught himself about how to update the web page and we have now tried to do some improvements. The information is updated and the association Madagaskar Schul- und Kinderbücher e.V. has got its own page. All newsletters are also available and can be downloaded. As we have a strong internet here in Norway we will try to keep the page updated. If you should find some problems with the page it probably means that we are working on it in that very moment. If the problem persists, please don't hesitate to tell us so that we might solve it.

<http://www.vakiteny.org/>



## Summer activities



We had a meeting with the principal of the Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium in Gernsbach, Mr Beil and the responsible for the student association "Eine Welt AG" Mrs Rauffmann. We handed over some copies of the geography book as the school had supported the print with a donation last year. We repeat our thanks to the school for their generosity.

Short presentation for the students at the Gymnasium of the four new books since last year. They were very interested and full of questions so that we went far beyond the time limit.



The association "Madagaskar Schul- und Kinderbücher e.V." had their annual meeting in Baden-Baden 15th of July. After the meeting we gave some information about the new books and the activities in Madagascar (see picture below).

We lived in the house of Mrs Schelshorn (first from the left) as we did last year and we are very grateful for her hospitality and support. She has also been elected deputy head of the association board.

Informal information meeting for friends of Vakoka Vakiteny in the home of Mrs Schelshorn in Baden-Baden. We were surprised that so many had come to listen to us. They were well-informed about the situation in Madagascar and had many questions. Active and supporting members of the association and representatives from the German French Society in Baden-Baden were among the guest. Thank you all for coming!

