



Edition **Vakoka Vakiteny**
Publishing Company
BP 216, c/o SMB
Toliara 601
MADAGASCAR

vakoka@vakiteny.org
www.vakiteny.org
vakiteny.blogspot.com

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.

Layout: content: Sophie and
Mparany Rakotondrainy

Vakoka Vakiteny News

Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny.

I have now arrived safely in Madagascar and the activities are already waiting. It has been a very interesting year in Europe, but I am really looking forward to work more with Vakoka Vakiteny!

In this newsletter we will most of all present the activities of the summer and also some plans for the next school year. The most urgent issue now is the print of "Hiverina aho, Dadabe", and "Toliara and the South-West of Madagascar". Even if we are still waiting for the French translation for the latter, we hope to be able to publish it before Christmas. If you are interested in receiving the book or information about it, please let us know.

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

Todisoa

As we wrote in last newsletter, the print of "Hiverina aho, Dadabe", the book about the girl Todisoa, was delayed. Since we were not sure about the quality of the print and because we wanted one more correction of the entire manuscript, we decided that we would use the summer to do the last changes.

The famous Malagasy author, Mrs Esther Randriamamonjy accepted to proofread. This has now been finished, and the manuscript is finally ready to be handed over to the print house. We hope to get a test print within this month so that we can proceed to the final print.

We are very glad that our Association has accepted to support the free distribution of 1000 copies. The total number of copies is therefore decided to be 1500.



Summer Events

Summer Celebration ("Sommerfest") in Baden-Baden

Finally, on the 22nd of July we had the summer event we had planned for such a long time. Especially Mrs Schelshorn from the association and Mrs Wasserburger, the owner of the bookstore Mäx und Moritz in Baden-Baden had prepared very much for this big event.

The location was the Lichtentaler Allée in Baden-Baden, perhaps the most central and famous avenue in the entire city. We had the pleasure of using the Museum LA8 that this summer also had a special exhibition about Africa. The programme started at 11 o'clock with African music by the band Bolingo-Anatou. We were then welcomed by Mrs Wasserburger and the Charge d'Affaires of the Malagasy Embassy in Berlin, Mrs Raholinirina. It was a great honour to have Mrs Raholinirina with us from the evening before the event and during the entire Sunday programme.



Mrs Raholinirina opens the event by talking about Madagascar and its need for education, translated from French by Mrs Schelshorn

The association "Eine-Welt-Verein Keniahilfe" and Vakoka Vakiteny had made stands where we sold handmade articles and gave information. At noon an impressive buffet with Malagasy food was opened. The food had been sponsored by people from Baden-Baden, and also Mparany and Sophie had made a Malagasy dish; mixed pork and chicken meat with beans (hena kisoa sy akoho). The surplus from this buffet was given to the association "Zaza faly" which supports a project for street children in Antananarivo, and who also were present this Sunday.



The Vakoka Vakiteny stand:
Preparations (left) and visitors looking at Malagasy
handicraft (right)



Mparany and Mrs Beneke, member of the association “Leselust Baden”, read a chapter from our new book “Hiverina aho, Dadabe”/ “Ich kehre zurück, Dadabé” in Malagasy and German respectively. In the afternoon Sophie had a presentation about Madagascar and the work of Vakoka Vakiteny.

The sale of Malagasy handicraft went very well during the whole day, and in addition Mrs Wasserburger and her association “Leselust” sold a huge number of book vouchers for 10 € each for the benefit of Vakoka Vakiteny. In total this made up a considerable financial support for next year. We got quite a surprise when Mrs Wasserburger asked us to step up and receive a donation of 500 € from an unnamed sponsor and a purchase of 200 book vouchers (10 € each) by Mr Willig and the “Eine-Welt-Verein Keniahilfe” who also have supported us a lot before. This was a very pleasant surprise!



Readings in German and Malagasy



Mrs Wasserburger (left) hands over the donation to Vakoka Vakiteny and Zaza Faly

We want to use this possibility to thank Mrs Wasserburger, who had the idea of this event and also had the main responsibility. We also want to thank Mrs Raholinirina who came from Berlin just for this event and Mr Willig for his generous donations. A big thank you for Mrs Schelshorn, the vice chairperson of the association, for preparing a lot, along with Mr Bauer.

Last, but not least, we want to thank everyone who contributed to the buffet and everyone who came to take a look at the event and contributed to this Sunday to be a wonderful and vivacious day!



Wonderful entertainment with Bolingo-Anatou

Annual meeting of the Association “Madagascar School and Children’s Books”

The 17th of July the Association “Madagascar School and Children’s Books” had their annual meeting in Breitnau in Southern Schwarzwald in Germany. Although the staff of Vakoka Vakiteny are not member of the association, we were asked to report our activities during the last year and talk about our plans for next year in addition to delivering a financial report over received donations.



After the meeting we had a very enjoyable evening. Unfortunately two of the members of the association had already left by the time we took this picture.

Training about Printing in Bühl and Baden-Baden

In July, Mparany had a two weeks of training about book printing and binding and design at the company “Firma Spinner” and at the school of art “Loius-Lepoix” in Bühl and Baden-Baden in South West Germany. He tells the following:

The first week was about bookbinding at the “Firma Spinner” in Bühl (<http://www.josef-spinner.de/>). The company Spinner is the biggest of its kind in this region. They do the whole process of bookbinding, and they use big machines to do all finishing. I was there to observe and practice how to control the quality of books. I saw how to encode the machines, such as the cutting, stitching and gluing machines. In addition, I got knowledge and new inspiration as quality of books is concerned.

The second week was in “Loius-Lepoix” in Baden-Baden which is a vocational school for art and design. I observed the students practicing the use of some design programs such as Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. I also learned how to operate a printing machine.

These two weeks in Bühl and Baden-Baden have given me and Vakoka Vakiteny new motivation to strive for books in the best possible quality in Madagascar. We now have the opportunity and skills to recognize lack of quality when it comes to printing books and also the ability to control and give advice to the printing houses we work together with. It was also fantastic because people were very nice and very helpful there, and I was very much welcomed at both places. An extra thank you to Mr. Willig who had organized this training for me!

Mparany Back in Madagaascar

On Monday 27th of August Mparany arrived in Madagascar after little more than one year of absence. He will now be able to closely follow up all the Vakoka Vakiteny activities and arrange new projects. We have however decided to keep Mrs Hanta as an assistant as she has done an excellent work during the last year. Furthermore, it is often difficult for Mparany to be able to attend meetings with the print houses or other partners in Antsirabe and Antananarivo because of the large distances, so this will be among the main responsibilities of Mrs Hanta.

Mparany has now already had a meeting with the print house Trano Printy Loterana that will print "Hiverina aho, Dadabe" and also another print house for the book about Toliara by Dr. Küspert, which we presented in our last newsletter.

Plans for Next School Year

For the next school year we do of course plan to continue and expand our activities in terms of partners, visibility in Madagascar, book distribution and cooperation with schools. Furthermore we want to develop two new book manuscripts. The development of the first has already started. It is a book which will contain fairytales told by children from the Bara region in Madagascar. The Bara people are a marginalised and remote group of people with their distinct traditions and culture which is very little known in other parts of the island. We therefore want to contribute to giving these people a possibility to show their culture and also be proud of it. Mparany will travel to Bara villages and collect fairytales from school children which will be transcribed into standard Malagasy language. Later there will be several workshops where children will paint pictures to the selected fairytales. We hope that the collection of fairytales will be done by the end of this year, and that the manuscript will be ready by spring 2013.

As for the second book we have several possibilities. The first alternative is an autobiography by a young Malagasy lady who has experienced a very hard life. She is already an artist and a poet, so we believe that this book will be very interesting and special, and also something totally new to Vakoka Vakiteny. We are unfortunately not able to reveal more about her story until we are sure that she really wants to share it. As another alternative we have a children's book by a Malagasy author and a German children's book which we could translate into Malagasy. However, as for now, we are negotiating with the young Malagasy lady for publishing her story.



Bara girls
