

Dear friends of **Vakoka Vakiteny**.

Sophie, I and the kids went to Madagascar this summer, both for work as well as private purposes. We had a great time, and we also managed to catch up a lot on Vakoka Vakiteny work.



Now Mrs. Hanta on a private visit with us in Ethiopia. We are using our time well to have meetings about Vakoka Vakiteny and work on our manuscripts. She has even participated in a training on books in mother tongue in the Blue Nile Valley (see p. 5).

The big manuscript, the «Environment book» is progressing well. Furthermore, we are working on a promotion video for our work, so just keep your eyes open.

Best wishes,

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

Rojo is thanking Vakoka Vakiteny

Rojofitiavana (12 years old), pupil at Voatsinampy primary school in Antsirabe has a message to Vakoka Vakiteny and the association in Germany supporting us:

We want to thank Vakoka Vakiteny for the books in our mother tongue. We are so happy because we learn a lot and we get a lot of new knowledge from other places than our town.



I know that there are people in Germany that give money for Vakoka Vakiteny. With this money they can print books for us. Misses and misters, I thank you for that! Please continue with this work. I hope that one day we will have a big library full of children's books in Malagasy language!

Thank you very much!

«The Last Big Tree» is printed

The children's book Hazobe Farany, meaning «the last big tree» was printed in the enbeginning of July in 1000 copies .

We have already distributed 200 copies in the area around Toliara. Half of these books have been given to the local «Atelier Merveilleux» which has been founded by the author of the book, Stephane Deseilles.



Hanta is checking the print of the book at the print house in Antananarivo

Stephane is of French origin, but married to a Malagasy lady and has lived in Toliara for many years. The «Atelier Merveilleux» is a local association that does leisure activities for children in Toliara. Especially children from poor homes usually don't have any possibility to learn sports like taekwondo or dance.



Stephane Deseilles

Stephane does a lot of volunteer work with the children, and most of his work is nether paid nor recognized by anyone else than the children. Therefore, Vakoka Vakiteny is particularly proud to have made it possible for him to publish some of his work.

The book Hazobe Farany will be read aloud again at the «Atelier Merveilleux», and when Hanta comes to Toliara, she will make many activities with the children concerning reading.



Sophie is playing with the children at the book distribution in Toliara

Distribution in Andranomena, Toliara

Vakoka Vakiteny has distributed Tsingolangola as well as Hazobe Farany at the school in Andranomena close to Toliara.

This is a very poor area where the children have no support for their education from their homes and the parents have no possibilities to buy school materials.

After distributing the books, the children were taught how to take care of their books and that it is important to keep it in a safe and clean place. Furthermore, we talked about washing hands before reading.



Even the children who have just started to learn to read and write enjoy their new book, Hazobe Farany

Also the teachers got training in how to use books in the education of the children. One of the most important things was to tell the teachers to let the children have free time with their books where they can read, look at pictures and enjoy instead of always having to reproduce what the teacher is telling them. This will open their minds and also give them the opportunity to enjoy literature in their own way and in their own speed.



Books for Street Children

Twice every month, Mrs. Hanta goes on a book tour with the charity organization Grandira (Grandir á Antsirabe) who works with street children in Antsirabe town. They have a book rikshaw (biblio-pousse) and read for the children and tell them fairytales.

This work is greatly appreciated by the children, and Grandira thanks Vakoka Vakiteny for supporting their work with the street children.

- I am always looking forward to the day when Mrs. Hanta is coming to tell us stories, says Hery. He is a 9 years old orphan from Antsirabe.



Bara fairytales in Antsirabe

Mrs. Hanta has again been to the school Mahazoarivo II in Antsirabe. This public school is really making an effort to include books into the curriculum, and they like to invite Mrs. Hanta to teach and play with the children.

In the beginning of July, she went there and told the children the fairytale about the young man Jatovo who claimed not to be made by God (from the Bara fairytales in the book *Tsingolangola*). After telling the story, she asked them to make their own pictures to this fairytale. The children enjoyed it a lot, and the school promised to invite Mrs. Hanta again to work more with both the children as well as their teachers.



When Mrs. Hanta came back to the school, she found more pictures on the wall in the classroom which the pupils had done with their teacher in her absence!

Vakoka Vakiteny in Ethiopia

Even if Mrs. Hanta is on a private visit in Ethiopia at the time, she still does a lot of Vakoka Vakiteny work. Among others, she went with Sophie and Mparany to Kamashi in the Blue Nile Valley. Here, there is a youth centre that is doing a lot of promotion of indigenous languages in the region.

There is no literature in the Ethiopian minority language Gumuz, although there now is a script and it has been introduced as language of instruction in some pilot schools.

Mrs. Hanta happily shared with the people present at the training about the work of Vakoka Vakiteny and the importance of literature in mother tongue.

We hope that there in the future will be some children's books in Gumuz language and other indigenous minority languages in Ethiopia.



Although this work officially is not part of the work of Vakoka Vakiteny, it is part of the work of Sophie and Mparany as development advisors, as they use their experience from Madagascar on the production of books.

As a matter of fact, Sophie is currently working on two new manuscripts; one with fairytales in Gumuz language and one in Gwama language with illustrations by local artists. This work is financed through the Norwegian Mission Society.

Hanta is telling about the importance of children's books in mother tongue, in Ethiopia



Mparany is showing some Vakoka Vakiteny books for inspiration of our Gumuz colleagues and friends in the Blue Nile Valley in Ethiopia. His speech is translated into Gumuz by Hambisa on his right

Annual Meeting of the Association

On 24 July 2016 the Association for School and Children's Books in Madagascar (Madagaskar Schul- und Kinderbücher e.V.) had its annual meeting. As usual it was hosted by vice chair person Mrs. Christel Schelshorn in Baden-Baden, Germany.

This time, no-one from Vakoka Vakiteny could participate, but the meeting was still very successful, and the association is full of eagerness to continue the support of Vakoka Vakiteny.

Thank you very much for your effort and your support!

Upper row :

Sonja Küspert, Klaus-Christian Küspert, Hansjörg Willig and Clemens Däschle

Lower row:

Marion Kienzler, Christel Schelshorn and Hubert Kienzler



About *Vakoka Vakiteny*



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Rakotondrainy
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Sophie Küspert-
Rakotondrainy
Public Relations/
Editor



Hanta
Rakotondrainy
Book distribution/
Trainings

Vakoka Vakiteny has since 2008

- ... published 12 titles
- ... distributed 22 000 books
- ... encouraged thousands of children to read
- ... introduced reading in hundreds of schools
- ... strengthened the Malagasy language
- ... promoted Malagasy authors and artists
- ... participated in many cultural events
- ... supported the Malagasy natural environment through books and campaigns

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