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## FRENCH



Veolia Environnement Foundation Newsletter

No. 3 - May 2010

*Foundation Info* keeps you informed of what's happening at the Veolia Environnement Foundation: the projects being supported, the sponsors' reports, volunteers leaving on emergency relief, development assistance and other assignments around the world. The links in the contents section below will give you more information on the topic: just click and find! Please send us your suggestions, comments, pictures and anything else you'd like to share. ([fondation.ve@veolia.com](mailto:fondation.ve@veolia.com))

### TOP OF THE NEWS -----



• **Haiti:** The Veolia Environnement Foundation interventions launched in response to the earthquake that hit Haiti are ongoing. Emergency relief activities are continuing, but the teams are now also trying to implement sustainable actions in an attempt to gradually increase the local population's autonomy.

[More photographs](#)

*[More information on the Veolia Foundation's commitment.](#)*  
*[The first weeks of activity.](#)*

### LATEST PROJECTS SUPPORTED -----

The Veolia Environnement Foundation's **Selection Committee** met on March 30. It selected **22 projects** (11 in outreach, seven in workforce development and four in environmental conservation). Two weeks earlier on March 15, the Foundation held its meeting of the **Board of Trustees**. The trustees decided to support two new projects: a sanitation project to safeguard the water resources in Havana, Cuba, and a project for the protection of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands' biodiversity that will utilize the expertise of volunteers from Veolia Environmental Services.

The trustees also renewed their support to three of the Foundation's major projects: the fight against cholera in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; a program that is using carbon credits to improve access to water and sanitation in the Niafunké district in Mali; and the partnership with Adie, a French organization promoting access to economic initiatives through microfinancing. The next meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees will take place on June 9, 2010.

#### -WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT-



**In France**, the Foundation has decided to renew its support to Adie, a French organization promoting access to economic initiatives through microfinancing, for a further three years, with the aim of increasing support for small business start-ups. Since 1989, Adie has already supported the creation and development of more than 65,000 businesses. The Foundation had already supported a program to encourage small business start-ups in underprivileged neighborhoods between 2006 and 2009. It enabled Adie to develop its activities significantly in the Val d'Oise area near Paris and to open Adie Advice Centers in nine towns and cities in other parts of France. As a result of the partnership's continuation, three new Adie Advice Centers will be opened in Lyons, Nantes and Caen and an on-line service will be launched to facilitate the provision of microfinance and support entrepreneurs.

*[More information is provided on the Foundation's website.](#)*

#### -ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION-

**In the French Southern and Antarctic Lands**, the Foundation is to launch an extensive program of sustainable activities to protect the environment and the remarkable natural heritage of the scattered islands



that surround Madagascar. The program will study the ecosystems in place and implement best practices in waste management. An assessment assignment has already been conducted by Veolia Environmental Services to prepare the removal and treatment of the hazardous waste dumped on Juan de Nova Island.

### -OUTREACH-



In China, the Children of Madaifu non-profit organization is working to improve the living conditions of 700 school children in the village of Shanmen. The organization, having already provided the village with an orphanage, will construct a sustainable "shower house" that will provide the children and other inhabitants with access to hygienic toilet and washing facilities.

*Find more about the project.*

All the projects supported are presented on the [Foundation's website](#).

## A SPONSOR REPORTS BACK -----



*"It's in these moments that you really feel that you have succeeded in doing something to make a small change in the destinies of these children."*

Responsible for promoting the company's business activities to France's "grandes écoles" at Campus Veolia, **Anca Strachinaru**, who is of Romanian origin, began working at Veolia Environnement two years ago after completing her end-of-study work placement. She became very quickly involved with the Veolia Environnement Foundation and became the sponsor for a project based in the Paris suburb of Montreuil run by the *Hors la Rue* non-profit organization: a day-centre for vulnerable young Roma people in the Ile-de-France region (Paris and surrounding area).

*Continued...*

## VOLUNTEERS ON ASSIGNMENT -----

### EMERGENCY & POST-EMERGENCY RELIEF



- **Chile (March 2010):** **Nicolas Le Goff**, head of quality at Veoliaforce, left for Chile in mid-March following the earthquake and the tsunamis that hit the country on February 27. Accompanied by two Proactiva volunteers, his assignment was to evaluate, together with local authorities, the situation in terms of access to water and to determine whether an emergency response was required.

*More photos*



- **Ecuador (January 2010):** After the creation of an emergency intervention platform in Ecuador, the Veolia Foundation has undertaken to train Veoliaforce volunteers in Latin America. In the framework of a partnership with the Ecuadorian Red Cross, two of the Foundation's permanent staff members, accompanied by volunteer **Frédéric Segá**, a works manager at Sade, left in January for Guayaquil.

*More pictures*

*Photos of the training*



They trained around 30 people, of which half were employees from Interagua (the local subsidiary of Proactiva, and the other half were volunteers from the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The course involved 16 hours of practical training. The future volunteers were trained in particular on using the Aquaforce 500, a new water treatment system that uses ultra-filtration that is lighter and more compact and therefore particularly adapted to isolated village settings. The Veolia Foundation now has a crisis intervention team it can count on that can be rapidly deployed in South America.

*Consult the local press review of the event, and the report broadcast on Ecuadorian TV news.*



• **Democratic Republic of the Congo (January 2010):** **Laure de Rotalier**, commissioning engineer at Veolia Water, and **Khomdeth Ratsavong**, design engineer at Sade, left for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in January. Their assignment falls within the scope of the integrated program to fight cholera, and took them to Uvira, the second town targeted by the program. They were accompanied by an epidemiological doctor and by **Franck Haaser**, the Foundation's emergency relief director. Alongside Oxfam, this multi-skilled team was able to prepare recommendations for concrete actions to halt the spread of epidemics through the town.

To support these activities, the Foundation is implementing an international think tank that will be presided by Assane Mayaki, Niger's former Prime Minister, currently Executive Secretary of the NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development). The role of this think tank will be to raise awareness of the cholera issue among stakeholders and donors, and to propose actions that tackle the causes of the disease. One of the key strategies in eradicating cholera is improving and expanding drinking water production and distribution facilities in the towns in which the disease originates.

*The project in detail on the Foundation's website.*

## DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE



• **Moldavia (March 2010):** **Pascale Labart**, head of the Veolia Water laboratory in Villefranche-sur-Saône, visited Moldavia from March 14 to 21 under the UNICEF "Child-friendly Schools" program. Her assignment was to support the Centre of Preventative Medicine in the analysis and interpretation of data following a water quality assessment that was conducted in 2009 in all of Moldavia's 1,500 schools. The assessment gave rise to general recommendations for the prevention of health-related risks, particularly in terms of pollution and its consequential diseases, acceptable sanitary conditions and hygiene practices to be improved in schools.

*More information.*



• **Cameroon (January-March 2010):** **Jean-Marc Loubet**, an employee from Veolia Water in Toulouse, left at the beginning of February for Bangoua to evaluate progress in the rehabilitation program for the community's drinking water network. Between 2006 and 2009, six field assignments were able to restore the network to working order and a Water Management Committee (COMEGBA) has been autonomously managing the network and producing drinking water for 12 months.

*More information about the Enfants de Ndé non-profit organization and the support provided by the Veolia Foundation.*

With a view to potentially implementing similar projects in 11 other villages in the district of Bangangté, a delegation including **Thierry Vandevelde**, Executive Officer of the Foundation, **Frédérique Héry**, project manager for international assistance, **Richard Nana Dwanang**, President of the Enfants de Ndé non-profit organization, and **Camille Masson**, volunteer and retired employee from Sade, held a meeting with government authorities (Cameroon's Prime Minister and the Water and Urban Development Ministers). In parallel, volunteers carried out a diagnostic assessment to define the rehabilitation activities that would be required. This was conducted using a socio-economic survey on the water requirements in the different chieftainships, alongside the local NGO ERA Cameroun. Together, these studies and meetings should determine a new program of activity.



• **Mali (March 2010):** **Jonathan Habert**, project manager at the Veolia Foundation, left for Mali at the end of March with **Véronique Cikala**, the Dalkia carbon project manager. They were in Mali in the framework of the carbon certification training program, formalized by an agreement signed last summer by **Thierry Vandevelde**, Executive Officer of the Veolia Foundation, and the Malian Environment Minister. The primary objective of this training for a total of 10 people is to reinforce the Malian authorities' and project promoters' skills in the development of projects to reduce greenhouse gases. The second objective is to provide them with tools that will enable them to grasp the certification procedures for such projects.

From April 2 to 19, **Pierre Ferraris**, engineer at Sade in Lyons, was in Niafunké to evaluate the water and sanitation requirements in seven villages in this isolated rural district of Mali. As a result of this volunteer's assignment, three villages were selected to receive drinking water supply networks and four villages to receive sanitation infrastructure. The



assignment also served to prepare the implementation phase of the project.

*More information on the Veolia Foundation's assistance for Mali (Niafunké district), carbon certification, etc.*

## NEWS IN BRIEF ...



- **Thursday March 25**, the association of student engineers **Idées** (engineers for development and exchange), celebrated its 15th birthday at an event held in Paris. Idées, which has been supported by the Foundation for 10 years, was created by the students at the ESME Sudria engineering school to improve the living conditions of people in the Alakamisy-Ambohimaha district in Madagascar.



- **The Tara Oceans scientific expedition**: Three years of sailing, more than 100 scientists, 12 research areas, 50 countries visited, some 60 port calls scheduled, and a network of 22 international laboratories—the Tara Oceans scientific expedition is supported by the Veolia Foundation, which is financing a large part of the scientific measurement instruments that are enabling researchers to gather new information on a still largely unknown marine universe.

Since it left the French port of Lorient in September 2009, the schooner Tara has continued its journey south through the Indian Ocean. During stopovers in Muscat on March 5 and Mumbai on March 26, employees and partners from Veolia were invited aboard by members of the expedition for a tour of the ship and to meet the scientists. The next stop at Reunion Island from May 12 to 14 will be another opportunity to meet the crew.

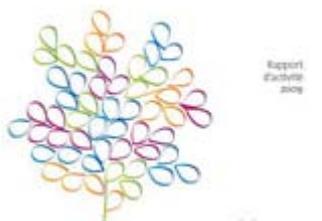
*Discover the Foundation's support, the Tara Oceans' program.*



The Veolia Foundation has, in particular, financed the "rose" that was specially designed for the expedition (*see photo opposite*). This apparatus with multiple sensors is able to take samples as well as a wide range of measurements: water turbidity, depth, and so on.

- **Tara invited to the Cosmos Club**: On January 25 and April 27, 2010, Thierry Vandeveld, Executive Officer of the Veolia Foundation, and Sebastian Troeng, Vice-President of the NGO Conservation International, invited the teams from Tara Oceans to present their project to members of the Cosmos Club in Washington. These meetings are significant because this very private club, a major center for encyclopedic knowledge, influences opinion throughout the world. Created in 1878, the Cosmos Club would contribute 10 years later to the birth of *National Geographic*.

## PUBLICATION



- **2009 activity report**: The Foundation's 2009 activity report will be available in French at the beginning of May and in English in June. It presents the 145 projects supported in the areas of outreach, workforce development and environmental conservation, numerous sponsors' testimonies as well as expertise assignments that have been conducted. Download or order it on the [Foundation's website](#).

## AGENDA

- **June 9: Veolia Environnement Foundation** meeting of the **Board of Trustees**.



- **June 9:** 2010 edition of the **Environment Book Prize**. This annual event, organized by the Veolia Environnement Foundation since 2006, aims to support and encourage writers and publishers that contribute to raising public awareness about the environmental challenges being faced today.



- **June 14:** The **Student Solidarity Prize** prize-giving ceremony. The Student Solidarity Prize, created by the Veolia Environnement Foundation together with Campus Veolia and representatives from schools and universities, aims to encourage the initiative and involvement of school and university students in community-oriented projects.

*Students may submit their projects on line.*

- **June 22:** Veolia Environnement Foundation **Selection Committee** meeting.



- **June 28:** Inauguration of the **Children's Gallery at the French National Museum of Natural History**. Through the creation of a 450 m<sup>2</sup> interactive exhibition space dedicated to children from 6 to 12 years old, the Natural History Museum's Great Hall of Evolution is pursuing and improving its teaching vocation by raising the younger generation's awareness of the themes of biodiversity and sustainable development.

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