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Foundation Info



Veolia Environnement Foundation Newsletter

No.7 - December 2011

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)

FRONT PAGE



A new cooperation agreement has just been signed by the Veolia Environnement Foundation and the **UNHCR**, the United Nations' refugee agency. Under this agreement, **the Foundation becomes a UNHCR standby partner** as it has already been since 2008 for UNICEF. In this way, it will be able to boost its partner's response capacity for emergency humanitarian missions for refugees by providing the UNHCR with its expertise and know-how. The Foundation undertakes to mobilize at any time the Veoliaforce volunteer employees who will be able to work with the UNHCR teams on site and other local partners to diagnose the situation, assess needs, deploy technical equipment and train users to provide water and energy as well as waste management and sanitation at refugee camps.

LATEST PROJECTS TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

The Veolia Environnement Foundation's **Selection Committee** met on October 20. It approved support for 34 projects of which 12 in France and 22 abroad, in the areas of outreach (12 projects), workforce development (12 projects) and environmental conservation (10 projects).

-WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT-



France's Nord-Pas-de-Calais region is being allocated a new workforce development project on the Lomme MIN (market of national interest), which, in addition to creating employment integration for the long-term unemployed, will provide quality, low cost fruit and vegetables to local charities. This initiative is run by ANDES (National Association for the Development of Solidarity Grocers).

[Details about the project.](#)

-ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION-



The NGO L'Homme & l'Environnement is initiating a plan to provide access to renewable energies on the Vohibola nature reserve by building a solar powered boat designed to carry passengers and for site surveillance activities.

[Program details.](#)

-OUTREACH-



Solidarité humaine Ile-de-France is improving the conditions of access to drinking water and sanitation in the Liligodo region in Togo involving almost 15,000 people in eight villages. Under a decentralized cooperation program with the Urban Community of Mantes-en-Yvelines in France, the Veolia Environnement Foundation has made a three-year financial commitment and will also support the project through its sponsorship of skills program to ensure proper technical implementation.

[More information on the Foundation website.](#)

INTERVIEW

"Train and organize skills transfers"

Retired from Veolia Environmental Services four years ago, **Jean Briselet** devotes part of his time to Veoliaforce. Mid-November, he went to work in a Cholera Treatment Center in Chad to test an incinerator and train the local population in its use. Details.



[The interview.](#)

VOLONTEERS ON ASSIGNMENT

EMERGENCY & POST-EMERGENCY -----



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, October-November 2011): **Franck Haaser**, head of the Foundation's emergency response section, and **Delphine Bahuaud**, engineer with OTV (Veolia Water) spent three weeks in Uvira, the second city concerned by the cholera eradication program after Kalemie. With the project partners, they reviewed the safety of the existing water network. In consultation with Regideso (the water distribution company) and the Artelia Foundation, they also began writing a simplified master plan for the drinking water distribution network. The priorities are imposed by the spread of the cholera epidemics.

More information about the cholera eradication program can be found on the [Foundation's website](#) and on the [GAAC website](#).



Chad (November 2011): **Frédéric Plumas**, head of Veoliaforce logistics at the Veolia Environnement Foundation, and **Jean Briselet**, a Veolia Environmental Services retiree, spent two weeks in the Guera region in southern Chad. The mission, which was extended through to mid-December, was organized at the request of French Red Cross. The NGO deployed its staff on site back in September to eradicate a cholera epidemic. The two volunteers tested and studied the operation of incinerators at the Cholera Treatment Center (CTC). The cholera epidemic is travelling and leads to the creation of CTCs along its path.

[Click here for more photos.](#)

[View the details of a previous mission on site performed in September by other volunteers.](#)

DEVELOPMENT -----



Djibouti (October 2011): **Jean-Claude Dumoulins**, a Veolia Water retiree, and **Renaud Spingart**, an Electrical Engineer with Dalkia France, spent three weeks in East Africa to examine wells financed by the European Union and Saudi Arabia. At UNICEF's request, the aim was to establish general recommendations about the design, construction and use to increase the water flow rate. The two engineers, one specialized in energy production and the operation of production sites, and the other in drilling and civil engineering, identified all the technical characteristics of the wells and the equipment installed (hydraulic, electrical, etc.), before analyzing the quantity specifications (water and energy needs) and the equipment choices made.



Benin (October-November 2011): **Thierry Victor**, a Veolia Water volunteer from Valence (France), spent two weeks in Bohicon, 150 km from Cotonou. His mission was to check the proper operation of the drinking water supply, install a chlorine metering pump and train the equipment maintenance teams. This decentralized cooperation project between the Urban Community of Seine-Eure and the Municipality of Bohicon has received the Foundation's technical and financial support for the past two years. In all, five Veoliaforce volunteers have performed seven missions to supervise the progress of work which has now been completed. Last November, a delegation from the Urban Community of Seine-Eure attended the inauguration of the network which will benefit nearly 15,000 people.

[Water for everybody around Bohicon? The answer here.](#)



Moldavia (October 2011): At the end of October, **Jean-Pascal Rigolleau**, a Veolia Energy project leader at the Foundation, went to the Strasenii region in the heart of Moldavia. Sireti High School is to benefit from the creation of sanitary blocks and the Veolia Environnement Foundation is financing part of this program in partnership with the Orange Foundation and the Alliance française. Work will begin in spring 2012 and the Foundation will provide supervision for the construction work and technical commissioning of the finished block.

[Click here for details about the work at Sireti High School.](#)



Cameroon (fall 2011): Henri Vignoles, a Veolia Environnement Foundation employee, spent three months in Bangangté, in west Cameroon on the vast Modeab program. He helped the municipal technical services write the call for tenders for the rehabilitation or construction of drinking water infrastructure, and monitor the progress on the sanitation part of the project and actions to boost user awareness. This project is part of a cooperation program for access to water and wastewater led by the Association internationale des maires francophones (AIMF) and the municipality of Bangangté. It receives financial and technical support from the Foundation.

[Click here for details of the Modeab program.](#)

VOLONTEER DEPARTURES THOUGHOUT THE WORLD

EVENTS



The "Solidarity for Water in the Niger Basin Countries" forum was held on October 17 and 18, in Bamako (Mali). Under the High Patronage of His Excellency Amadou Toumani Touré, President of the Republic of Mali, the Forum was attended by several African Heads of State and the French Minister for Cooperation, Henri de Raincourt, and representatives of partner foundations. Thierry Vandeveld, executive officer of the Veolia Environnement Foundation, also attended alongside Michel Camdessus, the representative of the Chirac Foundation.



Read the [scientific review](#) of the second year of the Tara Oceans Expedition. Since its departure from Lorient (France) in September 2009, the schooner has performed 133 scientific stations to take samples for laboratory analysis. The results of the initial analyses revealed that 60% to 80% of plankton genes were unknown to us!

[Visit the Tara Expedition website.](#)

AT THE FOUNDATION



The Fondation du sport français was launched on December 5, 2011. Approved by the State awarded "supporting foundation" status, it aims to promote, for the common good, social innovation through and in sport, and to promote the human ties that can be usefully developed through sport. The Veolia Environnement Foundation is one of the founding members alongside the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF), the Fondation Française des jeux and the Mutuelle des sportifs. **Thierry Vandeveld**, executive officer of the Veolia Environnement Foundation, was elected vice president of the Fondation du sport français.



The [Prix de la solidarité étudiante 2012](#) kicked off in early December. Log onto our [Facebook page](#) for details about the fourth ceremony for this event aimed at supporting non-for-profit projects for the common good run by student associations.

[Read the rules](#) and view [the submission application](#).



The 7th Environment Book Prize is now open. This prize supports, encourages and helps promote writers and publishers whose aim is to **raise public awareness of the environmental challenges of the planet**: that is also the challenge that the Veolia Environnement Foundation has set itself since 2006.

FOUNDATION DIARY



New schedule for project submissions: the Veolia Environnement Foundation will receive the next submissions for its support in **January 2012** for a Selection Committee meeting to be held on **March 6**. The dates for the other calls for submissions are March, July and September.

A volunteer speaks

Retired from Veolia Environmental Services four years ago, Jean Briselet devotes part of his time to Veoliaforce. In mid-November, he went to a Cholera Treatment Center in Chad to test an incinerator and train the local population how to use it. Details.

After working for Veolia Environmental Services for about 12 years, you retired in 2007 and became a Veoliaforce volunteer.

What prompted you to make this decision?

Jean Briselet: When I was working, it was not possible to find the time, especially since towards the end of my career I went to Alexandria in Egypt. At the time, I was 200% involved in my work and I couldn't see it being any other way. After I came back to France, where I was based in Lyon, I heard about the Foundation's activities through a colleague and I volunteered. But it was only after I had retired that I was called to go and work in the field.

Your first mission was in Mali in 2008. Was this already a waste management project?

It was. The Mali Soleil association had received the Foundation's support and I also knew the sponsor, a colleague from the Rhône-Alpes region. The project involved providing household waste collection training for a local NGO that wanted to create a structure enabling it to roll out services in a district of Bamako. I spent a month there and the work was very successful.

You recent trip to Mongo Camp in Chad involved different needs.

What was the objective?

The aim was to check the proper use of a mobile incinerator on site. I was involved in the unit's initial testing when training Veoliaforce volunteers in Brittany (France), six months ago; a similar unit was sent to Chad in September. Installed at the Mongo cholera eradication center, it was designed to treat under the best possible conditions of hygiene waste from the medical care provided locally. I arrived on site in mid-November with very precise instructions: check that the incinerator had been correctly used up until that point, make sure that the cost of its use was managed, and arrange training for the local personnel.

Veoliaforce therefore called on your expertise for a cholera eradication program. How does a waste management specialist fit into that picture?

When I started to work in waste management in the 1980s, I was already dealing with issues surrounding the elimination of pathology laboratory waste. At the time, there were only two companies in this area in France, so it was hardly a topic that was very top-of-mind. And then time worked its magic and everyone, especially in the hospital environment, finally understood that waste management was not optional. And so it became common practice. In a situation like the one I encountered in Chad, the rationale is the same: you have to reach the point where waste management becomes second nature and is never overlooked. If you install mobile cholera treatment units several tens of kilometers from the incinerator, then you have to organize regular waste transportation. If you use the incinerator, then you have to make sure the waste is properly sorted beforehand.

You mentioned training the local population. Was that just for sorting?

Yes. You have to constantly remind them of the basic principles: needles, bandages and compresses must be separated from office paper waste. The incinerator in fact must not contain dust and sand as that suffocates the burners, etc. For me, the issue was not just to train a few Chadians but above all to make them fully aware of the fact that the day they leave, they have to have passed on these skills to their successor.

Are you willing to accept other missions that the Veolia Foundation may have to offer you?

I still have my hand up!



Jean Briselet in dates

1947

Birth.

1967

Degree in biological analyses.

1970

Laboratory Manager in Saint-Marcellin (France).

1995

Manager of an Onyx/Veolia Environmental Services agency specialized in medical waste.

2001

Onyx/Veolia Environmental Services Activity Manager in Alexandria (Egypt).

2007

Retirement.

