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Foundation Info



Veolia Environnement Foundation Newsletter

No. 8 - May 2012

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

The Veolia Environnement Foundation at the 2012 World Water Forum, in Marseille



In mid-March, the Veolia Environnement Foundation took part in the 6th [World Water Forum, in Marseille](#), where it was able to inform a large number of people about its technical support work and plead in favor of access to safe drinking water. We co-organized a thematic session with the WHO on water and health that focused on fighting cholera, and organized a side event on the same topic featuring the [GAAC \(Global Alliance Against Cholera\)](#). The Foundation also participated in a session organized by the NGO Solidarités on the transition from emergency response to development assistance. Close to 300 people attended the Foundation's sessions at the Forum, where clear recommendations were made on fighting water-borne diseases and cholera.

Find more information on [the cholera-eradication program](#) supported by the Foundation and [the Foundation's presence in Marseille](#).

LATEST PROJECTS TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

The Veolia Environnement Foundation's **Selection Committee** met on March 6. It approved support for 33 new projects, of which 16 in France and 17 abroad, in the areas of outreach (11 projects), workforce development (12 projects) and environmental conservation (10 projects).

See the projects chosen on the [Foundation's website](#).

At the Board of Trustees' March 26 meeting, the Foundation decided to support three new organizations: the Sport dans la Ville non-profit in Lyon; the workforce development non-profit Ares in Aubervilliers; and the International Union for Nature Conservation (UICN), in Togo.

-OUTREACH-



The decentralized cooperation program in place since 1991 between Chambéry, France, and Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso, has brought the residents of the two cities closer together. Many players—elected representatives, municipal employees, members of civil society and residents—in both cities have together come up with about 20 new projects and are seeing them through. One is a three-year program to improve access to drinking water for 25,000 people living in the 37 villages attached to Ouahigouya. The Veolia Environnement Foundation decided to co-finance the program and contribute skills through a partnership with the local Veolia Water agency.

[Project details.](#)

-WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT-



Since 1993, the non-profit Lille Sud Insertion has been working to bring people back into the workforce and has helped close to 1,000 people. It hires 110 people a year, including 30 on a permanent basis. One of its back-to-work projects in green spaces focuses on increasing respect for the environment.

[Find more information here.](#)

-ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION-



The Musée de la Mémoire Vivante in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, in Canada, is creating a rain garden to harvest and recycle runoff and educate its thousands of visitors. Opened in 2008 and devoted to immaterial heritage, the museum serves as a base for French culture in Canada. The Foundation is providing funding for the creation of the rain garden.

See the project description on the Foundation's website.

INTERVIEW



The non-profit Emergence received support from the Veolia Environnement Foundation five years ago and has gradually become a preferred partner of Veolia's transportation division in northwest France. Nearly 80 young people who were Emergence trainees have been hired in 15 years, and the organization's leaders sometimes serve as mediators on the buses.



The experiences of two local managers of Veolia's transportation division: **Patrice Nunez**, head of CTPO, the Porte Océane transit company, and **José Oberto**, Human Resources Director at VeoliaTransdev Nord Ouest.

The interview.

Visit the Emergence page of the Veolia Environnement Foundation's website.

VOLUNTEERS ON ASSIGNMENT

EMERGENCY RELIEF -----



Congo, Brazzaville (March-April 2012): Laurent Wolfram, a team leader at Veolia Water in Valence, and **Jean-Paul Dubois**, an operator at Veolia Water in Perpignan, went to Brazzaville following the March 4 explosion of the weapons and munitions depot. The sound of the explosion was heard up to 6 kilometers away: the blast killed over 230 people and injured 2,300; and nearly 14,000 people left homeless are now living at 11 sites. The French Red Cross, present in Brazzaville since 2006, immediately organized its teams. The Veolia Environnement Foundation sent equipment to restore drinking water service, along with the two volunteers.

DEVELOPMENT-----



Moldavia (May 2012): Jean-Pascal Rigolleau, the Veolia Energy-Dalkia Project Manager at the Foundation, went to the villages of Sireti and Voinova in Moldavia to oversee two projects. A sanitary block, financed in part by the Veolia Environnement Foundation in a partnership with Moldavenir and the Orange Foundation, will be built for the Sireti senior high school. The Mayor's Office has issued a call for tenders to select the companies that will work on the project, and the Foundation will be responsible for monitoring the works and the technical acceptance of the installations. For the junior high school in Voinova, the Foundation is providing support for an overhaul of the lighting and the replacement of furniture in the classrooms and cafeteria.

Read more information about the two projects on the Foundation's website: [Voinova](#) and [Sireti](#).



Cuba (April 2012): Frédérique Héry, the Foundation's Project Manager for International Cooperation, was in Havana in April. Working with SIAAP, the Greater Paris wastewater authority—more specifically, the elected official in charge of the project and the Cuba Coopération non-profit—she made progress on the project to reduce pollution of the Ariguanabo river basin, next to the capital. The work schedule changed somewhat due to institutional reforms, but technical, administrative and financial reports were prepared with the project's Cuban partners (in particular, the international relations department of the Water Resources Ministry).

See the [project description](#) on the Foundation's website.

Cameroon (April 2012): Henri Vignoles was in Bangangté at the beginning of April to continue implementation of the Modeab program. The project, aimed at building a stable contracting authority for water and wastewater services in Bangangté, has entered the construction phase. Other work, to rehabilitate a Scan-Water potable water supply system in Baména, has begun, along with the installation of a small solar water supply system in



the village of Sanki. This assignment arose during the extension of a visit to France by a delegation of young professionals from the town of Bangangté. The delegation took part in the World Water Forum in Marseille and visited a Veolia Water production plant in Chartres as part of a skills transfer initiative.

See [the project description](#) on the Foundation's website.



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, February 2012): **Clément Petit**, a Project Manager at the Veolia Environnement Foundation, was in Kalémie from February 22 to March 8 gathering quantitative and qualitative data on the water distributed and epidemiological results from the cholera-eradication work carried out jointly with Solidarités International. The ultimate goal of this assignment is to determine the impact of the actions on the ground by measuring their effectiveness.

See [the cholera section](#) of the Foundation's website.

EVENTS



March 2012: On Saturday March 31, **the schooner Tara** returned to its home port after sailing 115,000 kilometers and spending two and a half years exploring the world's seas. 2012 will be devoted to analyzing the data and samples collected during the expedition. The Veolia Environnement Foundation will be actively involved. The project is expected to produce the first comprehensive picture of the world's plankton ecosystems.

Find [the latest about the expedition online](#) and [watch a video](#).

The Tara went into dry dock on April 11, at the Lorient Kéroman port, a fishing port managed by CEP, a Veolia Environnement subsidiary. After its systems had been shut down and almost all the scientific apparatus removed, five CEP employees lifted the schooner out of the water.

Find the slide show on the dry-docking here.



April 2012: A second workshop took place at **Biosphère 2** in Tucson, from April 22–25, under a scientific cooperation program between the Foundation and the University of Arizona. Engineers and researchers got together again, almost one year after the first workshop in May 2011, when about 30 participants talked about Veolia's operational experience and agreed on areas of mutual interest for research. At the second workshop, three topics dominated the discussions: water management, with an emphasis on the Water Impact Index developed by Veolia Water; restoring the environment, and alternative energy sources.

Click for [more information on the project](#) and [watch a video](#).



March 2012: Several Veoliaforce volunteers attended a **training seminar** at Grans, near Aix-en-Provence. During their three days in Grans, they learned about problems associated with humanitarian work (health, safety, logistics, etc.). They also met with the Foundation's principal partners in emergency relief and development assistance. The Veoliaforce volunteers also received hands-on training in using the Aquaforce 500 and 5000.

See [a diagram of the Aquaforce 500](#) and [the emergency relief operations](#) carried out by Veoliaforce volunteers.

TIDBITS

In the middle of March, the **Modeab** program, to build a stable contracting authority for water and wastewater services in Bangangté, was awarded the prize of the special fund for facilities and intercity collaboration (FEICOM). FEICOM is a public administrative structure for decentralization in Cameroon and a preferred partner of the country's municipalities. It is involved in training local elected representatives in order to improve the councils'



management. The mayor of Bangangté, Célestine Ketcha Courtès, was given a check for 50 million CFA francs for a project launched the previous year by the Veolia Environnement Foundation and its partners (AIMF, SIAAP, AESN). Thanks to the project, which receives technical and financial support from the Foundation, the 150,000 inhabitants of Bangangté enjoy better access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

[Find more information on the Modeab project here.](#)



To mark Sustainable Development Week in April and highlight the **MédiaTerre** project, which is supported by Dalkia and the Veolia Environnement Foundation, residents of the eastern Paris neighborhood of Piat Faucheur Envergies, were taught about saving energy and sorting waste. The half-day event was organized by Unis-Cité volunteers and the public housing organization Paris Habitat.

[Project details on the Foundation's website.](#)

AT THE FOUNDATION



Thierry Vandevelde, the Veolia Environnement Foundation's Executive Officer, spoke at the round table on North-South water sharing, which took place in Toulouse on April 3. The session was part of the FreDD festival of film, research and sustainable development, which is supported by the Sud-ouest region and the Toulouse local authority.



Dominique Boizeau, the Veolia Environnement Foundation's Communications Director, spoke at the First Rhône-Alpes Bref meetings on responsible businesses on March 26. Social actions by the region's businesses were highlighted at the event and the concrete application of CSR and its impact on the performance of businesses and municipalities were discussed. She showed how the Foundation was involved, giving the example of two of its projects in Lyon: Sport dans la Ville and the non-profit Petite Reine.



Thierry Vandevelde spoke at the Red Cross's Ready Conference on March 27. During a round table, he recounted that the Foundation and the French Red Cross had first partnered in 1998, in Nicaragua, and then went on to describe how the partnership between them worked.

FOUNDATION DIARY



- **June 5:** Meeting of the Foundation's Selection Committee.
- **June 14:** Student Solidarity Awards.
- **June 18:** Meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

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INTERVIEW

The non-profit Emergence received support from the Veolia Environnement Foundation five years ago and has gradually become a preferred partner of Veolia's transportation division in northwest France. Nearly 80 young people who were Emergence trainees have been hired in 15 years, and the non-profit's leaders sometimes serve as mediators on the buses.

When Patrice Nunez began working at CTPO, the Porte Océane transit company, in Le Havre six and a half years ago, Emergence was already well known to the staff of CTPO. Le Havre's public transit system had been working for some time with the non-profit created by Allaoui Guenni in 2002. A welder by trade, he preferred the world of social integration to industry. And it was beside an abandoned swimming pool that he launched his project of an employment agency for unemployed youth through sport coaching. Sport requires the same discipline and is as demanding as work. Once the premise was established, Allaoui Guenni was eager to integrate his project into Le Havre's economic fabric. Veolia's transportation division is part of that fabric and it became one of Emergence's partners. "One of Emergence's advantages is that it builds relationships with economic players that are not solely based on financial support," explains Patrice Nunez. "My predecessors' role in the non-profit at the beginning was to test the employability of the young people being looked after by Allaoui Guenni. The idea was to end up with a population of employees in our company that was representative of Le Havre's."

In concrete terms, Emergence offers its members support in job seeking. The organization's permanent staff coach the participants, while CTPO employees give of their time to train them for job interviews. And they have been very successful at this: in 2006, 58 of the 81 trainees had been hired by companies. That was just the beginning. Approached in 2007, the Veolia Environnement Foundation partnered with the organization's "Au top pour un job" program, enabling it to buy a vehicle so that candidates could get to their job interviews. In every respect, CTPO became an active partner, and some Emergence trainees were hired by Veolia. "About 80 people found jobs this way in 15 years," says José Oberto, the HR Director at VeoliaTransdev Nord-ouest, in Rouen. "But there was no positive discrimination. We help Emergence train its members in job seeking. Then we do our hiring based solely on the criterion of competence. The two aspects are very separate."

The collaboration has gone even further over the past few months. Based in Mont-Gaillard, a "problem" neighborhood, Emergence is very familiar with the urban fabric of Le Havre, its residents and its problem issues. So, when CTPO had to deal with the death of a young motorcyclist who had been struck by a bus after going through a red light, Emergence played an important role. "Tensions were high in a sensitive neighborhood of Le Havre and there was a real risk of things getting out of control. With Allaoui Guenni's help, we were able to meet with the family, channel the anger and defuse the situation," says Patrice Nunez, who is now interested in anticipating future crises. "In our calls for tenders for maintenance of our light rail stations, there's a clause on hiring young people from troubled neighborhoods. The company we choose will have to recruit in those neighborhoods, and Emergence could facilitate contacts in them."

When it comes to managing conflicts, José Oberto has some experience. The HR director was recently confronted with conflicts between his bus drivers and the public. "Last year in Dunkerque and at the beginning of this year in Beauvais, disagreements could have led to serious trouble if it weren't for Emergence," he admits. "Allaoui Guenni's teams have expertise that we could make more use of in training our drivers. After all, our work is, basically, social interaction."

In Dunkerque and Beauvais, local Emergence teams could be created, with the same idea as sports as a social model. The northeastern region could be a springboard for expansion, but, in any event, the organization has already proven its worth.



Patrice Nunez, 60, is head of CTPO, the Porte Océane transit company, and is in charge of Le Havre's light rail system. A Veolia employee since 1984, he has always worked in public transportation, primarily in the Anjou, Auvergne and Normandy systems.



José Oberto, 59, is Human Resources Director at VeoliaTransdev Nord-ouest in Rouen, Normandy. He joined Veolia 20 years ago to build a career in human resources, first at Dalkia and then in the transportation division, where he's been since 2005. Knowing about the Foundation's work, he sponsored one of the projects it supported in 2005, for a non-profit fighting the abuse of elderly people.

Find more information here on the projects supported by the Foundation in 2007.