

Foundation Info



Veolia Environnement Foundation newsletter

No. 11 - July 2013

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 French development agency (AFD) and the European Union (EU) have decided to allocate €8.5 million to [the project to combat cholera that the Veolia Environnement Foundation is supporting](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The funding will be used to rehabilitate the water system in Uvira. This city of 230,000 people, located in the African Great Lakes area, is one of the eight zones in the country that have been identified as cholera sources. The AFD and EU committed to providing financial aid for the program after having gone out in the field to assess the pertinence of the methods chosen (epidemiological studies and engineering) as well as the involvement of local and humanitarian partners alongside the foundation.

[Read the rest of the article here.](#)



The funding award comes a little less than a year after [Alexandra Chenguelly's assignment in the DRC](#). This young financial analyst, who works for Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, spent three weeks in Uvira with another Veoliaforce volunteer, Louis de la Ronciere, to audit and understand the economy of Regideso, the local authority in charge of water management.

[Read her interview.](#)

LATEST PROJECTS TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

The Selection Committee of the Veolia Environnement Foundation met on April 9, 2013. It selected 26 projects (18 in France and eight in other countries) in the fields of emergency relief and development aid (six projects), outreach and workforce development (13 projects), and environmental conservation and biodiversity (seven projects).

[See the map of projects supported.](#)

- OUTREACH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -



The [Atelier d'Eco Solidaire](#) is setting up a creative recycling center in Bordeaux to collect, recycle and sell furniture and scrap materials, and to raise the public's awareness about waste recovery. The Veolia Environnement Foundation is helping the Atelier to carry out this project, alongside the Bordeaux City Hall and urban community, ADEME, the French environment and energy management agency, the Departmental Council, other foundations and some of the big names in home improvement materials.

[Details of the project.](#)

- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY -



The [Partenaires Pour la Ville nonprofit organization](#) in Saint-Denis, just outside Paris, is fitting out an educational apartment to raise awareness among Saint-Denis residents of how to keep consumption under control and adopt eco-friendly behavior. The Veolia Environnement Foundation is supporting the nonprofit through teaching eco behavior: saving fluids, maintenance tips, health and safety advice and so on.

[Click here for more information.](#)



- HUMANITARIAN WORK AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE -

The [Enfants de Ndé](#) nonprofit is assisting the Bangangté municipality in Cameroon with setting up a service to manage waste from latrines and build a treatment site to make use of the by-products. The Veolia Environnement Foundation, which supports Bangangté's water and sanitation policy, is looking into the question of how to deal with liquid sewage from the urban center.

Details of [the project](#).

VOLUNTEERS ON ASSIGNMENT



Philippines (June 2013): Damien Languillat, Director of a Veolia Environmental Services center, spent a week in Manila in June. Working alongside the NGO Médecins du Monde (Mdm, or Doctors of the World), he participated in a program to mitigate the health and environmental risks associated with recycling activities among informal recyclers of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). His assignment was to train Mdm's community workers in Manila.

Find [the project factsheet](#) on the foundation's website and [the interview with Françoise Weber](#), project sponsor.



This assignment is part of an operational partnership signed by the Veolia Environnement Foundation with the Mdm nonprofit organization. **Antoine Frérot**, Chairman and CEO of Veolia Environnement and Chairman of the foundation, and **Thierry Brigaud**, Chairman of Mdm, met together on June 5 at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris on the occasion of World Environment Day. The evening offered the opportunity to discuss health and the environment.



Burkina-Faso (June 2013): Jean-Marc Liminana and **Patrick Eychenne**, two Veolia Water technicians, left for the Karangasso Vigue district at the end of June. Based in Bobo-Dioulasso, they worked in the villages of Dan and Kien to supervise the worksites where simplified drinking water supply systems are being installed and check the quality of the work. The assignment is part of the decentralized cooperation agreement between the city of Narbonne in France and the Burkino authorities.

For more information go to [the foundation's website](#).



Moldavia (June 2013): Jean-Pascal Rigolleau, the Veolia Energy-Dalkia project manager at the foundation, left for Moldavia in early June. He headed for Sireti, a village with 5,900 people located 18 km northwest of the capital Chisinau. The 737 high-school students there are going to benefit from the construction of restrooms. The Veolia Environnement Foundation is financing part of the program in partnership with the Moldavenir international solidarity nonprofit and the Orange Foundation in Moldavia. The calls for tenders have gone out and work started in mid-June. Handover of the facilities is scheduled for September, when school starts up after the summer vacation.

See [the project factsheet](#) on the foundation's website.

OTHER VOLUNTEER DEPARTURES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

EVENTS



The [Student Solidarity Awards](#), which aim to encourage students in higher education to get involved in projects serving the general interest, were handed out on June 14 at Veolia Environnement headquarters. More than 150 students, employees and representatives of the "grandes écoles" and universities attended the awards ceremony. Antoine Frérot, Chairman and CEO of Veolia Environnement and Chairman of the Veolia Environnement Foundation, gave first prize to the La Cravate Solidaire nonprofit (students from the EDC business school in Paris) for its project to collect and distribute suitable work clothing for jobseekers in the Greater Paris area. The second prize went to the humanitarian unit of the INSA Toulouse engineering school for its Idée Eau project to construct and install hand-wash basins in health outlets and renovate dispensaries in different regions of Senegal. The third prize was awarded to the Inde-Espoir nonprofit, which brings together students from nine different schools and universities in a project to build a boarding school for young girls from tribal communities in Krishnadevipeta in the state of Andhra Pradesh in India. The "jury's choice" additional award was handed over by Jean-Marie Lambert, Senior Executive Vice-President in charge of human resources at Veolia Environnement, to

the Ombre et la Plume student nonprofit at the EDHEC business school. This organization helps prisoners and former prisoners in the Lille area to get back into the labor force.

View [the awards ceremony in the film](#) made by Chaîne du Cœur, and see [the foundation's website](#) for more information.



On this occasion, the foundation was assisted by Chaîne du Cœur, a multimedia portal for international solidarity. This portal passes on information about all solidarity actions so that everyone can participate in projects by financing or volunteering.



The pre-selection committee for the [Environment Book Prize](#) announced its short list for 2013. Created in 2006 by the Veolia Environnement Foundation, the annual prize goes to writers and publishers that work toward making the general public more aware of the environmental issues facing the planet.

[See the 2013 short list.](#)

AT THE FOUNDATION



The Veolia Environnement Foundation took part in [Biovision](#) on March 25, an international scientific forum organized by the foundation on behalf of Lyon University. During Focus 3 (Catalyzer 3: *Climate Change: Impact on Biodiversity and Human Health*), Thierry Vandeveld, Executive Officer of the foundation, presented its work in combating cholera.



The foundation's presence at this forum was preceded in the fall by the signature of a partnership agreement with the [Mérieux Foundation](#). The agreement enables the two partners to unite their efforts to contribute to keeping in check waterborne diseases and their impact on public health, in particular in developing countries.



Steve Luncker, a photographer from the VU' agency, won the [Prix Photo 2013](#) of the Paris Natural History Museum, for which the Veolia Environnement Foundation provided part of the prize money. The competition, which is organized by the National Geographic Channel, rewards a professional photographer for his or her work around the theme of "Mankind and Nature." Laure Duquesne, who is in charge of the Veolia Environnement photo library and is the project's sponsor, was a member of the jury, along with other professionals. They announced the 2013 prizewinner on May 21 at the same time as the exhibition of the 2012 winner, Cyril Ruoso, was opened.

[See the project factsheet](#) on the foundation's website.

TIDBITS...



An innovative nonprofit website has been created: Yutilis enables web-users to sell objects over the Internet and donate a percentage of the sale to the nonprofit of their choice. The goal is to form a new source of financing for nonprofits, as well as encouraging solidarity and responsible consumption among web-users. Yutilis wants to become a benchmark platform for solidarity in consumption.

PUBLICATIONS



The Veolia Environnement Foundation's 2012 Activity Report is available! Download it by [clicking here](#) or order it [here](#).

FOUNDATION DIARY



The foundation will hold its next Selection Committee meeting on October 15, 2013.

Top of The News



The French development agency (AFD) and the European Union (UE) have decided to allocate €8.5 million to the project to combat cholera being led by the Veolia Environnement Foundation and its partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The funding will be used to rehabilitate the water system of the city of Uvira (230,000 people) in the African Great Lakes area. Uvira is one of eight cholera sources identified in the country. The AFD and EU committed to providing financial aid for the program after having gone out in the field to assess the pertinence of the methods chosen (epidemiological studies and engineering) as well as the involvement alongside the foundation of DRC authorities, including the Ministry of Health, the public water authority Regideso and local humanitarian partners.

The foundation will continue to provide the skills of Veolia employees to enable Regideso to carry out the project and to support the ministries involved in implementing the national plan to combat cholera. After Kalémie, where the first results show a fall-off in the number of cholera cases, Uvira is the second city to benefit from the foundation's program. The experiment will be repeated in the other source zones, taking into account local characteristics. The goal is to eradicate cholera in the DRC, which is the most severely affected country in the world, and eventually in the whole of Africa.

For more information, see:

- the [animated information graphic](#) on the foundation's website ;
- the [presentation brochure](#) ;
- the [website of the Global Alliance Against Cholera \(GAAC\)](#) ;
- the [interview with Alexandra Chenguelly](#), a Veoliaforce volunteer who went to the DRC in mid-2012.

A volunteer speaks



Alexandra Chenguelly, 29, spent three weeks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Her assignment wasn't to assemble Aquaforce equipment but to audit the economic balance of the Uvira water service and suggest a profitability model for the city's water treatment plant. We interview this atypical Veoliaforce volunteer.

You're a financial analyst at Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, but you put forward your candidature to become a Veoliaforce volunteer. Why did you do that?

I had already been in contact with different organizations working in humanitarian aid. In Russia, I participated in the work of The Two Bears nonprofit and when I lived in Singapore, I became a child sponsor through the Enfants du Mékong organization. So the humanitarian world was familiar to me and I found it only natural to send in my résumé to the foundation.

When the Veolia Environnement Foundation called you in mid-2012 to participate in the program to combat cholera in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), what was your first reaction ?

I didn't know anything about the DRC and I must admit, I didn't really feel at ease. Then I got more information, the conditions and way of working of the assignment were explained to me and, above all, when it hits home that you're eventually going to enable 230,000 people to have access to safe drinking water and reduce the number of cases of cholera – you put your little worries to the back of your mind!

Once you arrived, you participated in an assignment as part of the French development agency's investigation into whether or not to contribute funding to the project). What exactly were your objectives?

There were two steps to my assignment. First of all I had to carry out a review of the accounts of Regideso, the local water management authority. That meant gathering financial data, explaining and interpreting them. The second step was to take into account the work on the water system being proposed by the foundation and its partners, which involved resizing the production facilities and extending the water supply network to the neighborhoods where there are the highest number of cholera cases. The objective was to make a forecast of the expected benefits so as to establish a long-term economic model with the idea that the infrastructure will last long after we are no longer present.

In the space of three weeks, did you have the time to understand all those figures?

It took me a few days to adapt, understand the issues and become familiar with the archives, etc. I had a great deal of help with all that from the people I was working with in Uvira, who were all very keen to learn. We talked a lot, comparing our methods of accounting and management control. And then another Veoliaforce volunteer joined us, Louis de la Roncière, a finance manager at Veolia Environnement. Three weeks was really not very long to do everything that was needed and the time flew by!

You stayed in touch with the project when you returned, didn't you ?

Yes, I remained available to the foundation to present or clarify the results of my analysis. And if I'm needed again, I'm more than willing to go back to the Congo or anywhere else!

Read more about the [€8.5 million allocated to the project](#) to combat cholera that is being led by the Veolia Environnement Foundation and its partners.



Alexandra Chenguelly: a lot of international and a little humanitarian experience before Uvira

After two two-year Volunteer for International Experience contracts in Slovakia and Singapore, business-school graduate Alexandra Chenguelly joined PICA, the Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies (VWS) subsidiary specializing in activated carbon. In 2010, she joined the financial analysis and structuring team at parent company VWS. The team is involved in mergers, acquisitions and divestments and in project financing.

For more information, see:

- the [animated information graphic](#) on the foundation's website ;
- the [presentation brochure](#) ;
- the [website of the Global Alliance Against Cholera \(GAAC\)](#).

Environment Book Prize



The pre-selection committee for the Environment Book Prize announced its short list for the 2013 award. Created in 2006 by the Veolia Environnement Foundation, the annual prize goes to writers and publishers that work toward making the general public more aware of the environmental issues facing the planet.

The jury will meet on Friday July 5 to choose the winner of the prize and of the "Mention Jeunesse" award for children's literature. Their names will be announced at the Nancy book fair in mid-September.

Short list for the Environment Book Prize:

1. *Réparons la terre* by Wangari Maathai – published by Héloïse d'Ormeson
2. *2 économistes face aux enjeux climatiques* by R. Guesnerie and N. Stern – published by Pommier
3. *Les Bidochon sauvent la planète* by Binet – published by Fluide Glacial
4. *Pour une philosophie de l'écologie* by Juliette Grange – published by Pocket
5. *Pierre Rabhi Le chant de la terre* by Rachel and Jean-Pierre Cartier – Published by La Table Ronde
6. *L'impératif du vivant* by Thierry Gaudin – published by Archipel
7. *Notre santé et la biodiversité* under the direction of S. Morand and G. Pipien – published by Buchet Chastel
8. *Guide Ecofrugal* by Philippe Green – published by Ecofrugal Project
9. *Philosophie du développement durable* by Franck Burbage – published by PUF
10. *La douceur de l'ombre* by Alain Corbin – published by Fayard

And for the "Mention Jeunesse":

1. *Le Prince des nuages* by Christophe Galfard – published by Pocket jeunesse
2. *Samourai Océan* by Hugo Verlomme – published by Gallimard Jeunesse



The jury, chaired by Denis Tillinac, is composed of writers, environment specialists and well-known personalities working to promote sustainable development. For this eighth edition, the jury was joined by a new member: Nicolas Hulot, Chairman of the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind.