



HIPS Information Letter Nr. 6

February 2005



Dear Friends and Sponsors,

it is almost two month ago, when I last visited Ghana. So it seems to be in time to give all of you a short report what happened during my second visit to HIPS in 2004. A visit, which developed to be somehow special in a few aspects.

At first my trip to Ghana this time started with a very special event. Mr. Kottmann, CEO of Ballast Nedam, the Dutch Company which had graciously sponsored the construction work of our school over the last years and his wife, visited Weija for the first time personally. They were welcomed with dances, food and drinks by the children. The natural and happy way of showing their high esteem to our valuable sponsor could be felt by everyone.



We all have been very happy, when Mr. Kottmann announced, that he not only brought six computers to Weja, but in addition to that he promised, that his company would build another schoolhouse, a toilet building and sponsor all the necessary equipment going with it in early 2005.

In the meantime the construction has already started, so that we will be able to use everything after the vacation in September.

In addition to that Mr. Kottmann told us, that Ballast Nedam Ghana would furnish the school with a computer specialist for some time to educate teachers and children in the use of the donated equipment.

More so, on the same day during an evening reception for their CEO at Ballast Nedam, Mr. Kottmann renewed in his opening speech the willingness of his company to continue to help HIPS in its future development.

I personally could thank him and his very helpful and friendly staff in Ghana for their always grateful way to support us whenever we feel lost again.



At the end of November than a new page in the book of HIPS was opened.

Mrs. Helene Jäger left the board of HIPS Charity Organisation. Unfortunately we could not understand why the fulfilment of her often expressed request, to find someone to lead the school and kinder garden professionally and by this give her the necessary time to secure her own living, now led to her decision to leave the Organisation. We all regret, that she feels not to be able anymore to identify herself with HIPS, but we thank her for the courage and initiative to start this great program some years ago.

I personally do not see any reason to doubt on the ongoing success of HIPS.

Therefore I kindly ask you not to stop your ongoing support for the children of HIPS. At least our great sponsor Ballast Nedam, the new enlarged board with highly competent people from various professions and a lot of other sponsors, which contacted me through the last weeks, feel that the help for the education of the poor children of Weija must go on.

That lead to my decision, that I, who has been pushing HIPS together with Mrs. Jäger through all obstacles from the first day on, will continue to invest my strength and engagement into the project, so that about 60 children from underprivileged families do not fall back into a life without education and very few chances for a life away of poverty. This great project can and must not be affected negatively by a personal not understandable decision of a single person.



The above mentioned new board will consist of:

To the chairman for some years, Dr. DD Sackey, veterinarian and past esteemed member of the Ghanaian Government, and

Mr. Lawrence Kom, employee of the German Kindernothilfe and secretary of HIPS, four new members were proposed for election

Mrs. Hildegard Thielmann, head of the German Kindernothilfe in Ghana

Mr. Ben Ashi, CFO of Ballast Nedam Ghana and

Mr. Christian Potyka, for many years a leading person of the German Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in Ghana and very experienced with the Ghanaian mentality .Mrs. Thielmann and he will be the binding chain between Africa and Europe in our Organisation.

A further member of the board will be an additional person, which should be nominated by the Ghanaian Ministry of Education.

To secure a successful development of the school up to sixth grade in a few years, the board decided to hire again a qualified headmaster to run the school. He will be responsible to manage the school in Weija. He will supervise the regularly performed test, which have to be presented to the Government, to prove the necessary qualification of the school's educational program. He will report directly and regularly to the board.

HIPS, certified as a NGO (Non Governmental Organisation) also need a professionally handled bookkeeping to qualify with no doubt for the certification. To assure this, a few days ago, a well versed person has been found to take care of this neglected matter.

As you see, some quite major movements have taken place. But if you would decide to continue your support of the HIPS project, I will be sure, that, at my next visit to Weija, many, many radiant children's eyes will laugh at me. They will show their happiness about their special chance to be at HIPS. I will surely also feel the gratitude of their parents about the wonderful opportunity HIPS is giving to their children.

I will see young human beings, who will have the rare chance in Africa to look into a brighter future, if they can continue their education at HIPS.

All of us, who are engaged in HIPS, thank you very much for your hopefully ongoing support of our project.

Ciao and good by

Yours

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