THE PROMISING START OF THE SEEDS OF HOPE PROGRAM IN IVORY COAST

At the technical school of Bonoua, the Seeds of Hope program is taking a new impetus

Seeds of Hope project in Ivory Coast has been running for some months. In May 2016, the launching ceremony, gave the starting signal. Among the numerous participants gathered for the event, we can mention CFAO, Schneider Electric, Total, the AFD, the Direction for vocational training, as well as other companies from the sector.

Strengthening the links with local companies

The country has experienced a strong growth since 2011*. In this context, it is crucial to adapt the trainings to the demands of local enterprises in order to give young people the opportunity to find a sustainable job.

In June 2016, a roundtable with enterprises was organized in order to define their needs. This was considered a first step to renovate the training curriculum. Putting the students in real professional life situations is also a way to make them have a concrete vision of the companies’ expectations. That is why twelve students of the electricity classes of the Technical Centre of Bonoua did practical internships this summer. Internships are still unusual in Ivory Coast and this new experience has convinced the students and teachers of the school. Many companies are now involved in the project. Some of them welcomed interns, while other companies came in the school, organized conferences, or even organized visits of their firm for students.

Continuous training and renovation

The Seeds of Hope program has also undertaken very concrete actions: the buildings were renovated in August and ready to use in September for the beginning of the new school year**. Moreover, a training on electrical authorization was organized for the teachers in September with Schneider Electric. 10 team managers from local enterprises also took part in the training. This session was part of the continuous training program organized by IECD with the pedagogical team of the school in order to improve the training by transferring knowledge. 5 trainings have been organized so far.

The first results of the Seeds of Hope program in Ivory Coast are very encouraging. In November, the IECD team met the parents of students involved in the project to clarify the project and the advantages of vocational training in electricity to find employment. Promoting the training and giving the students the opportunity to get a sustainable job are two crucial goals of the program. Its development in other schools of the country is planned for 2017.

* The Ivory Coast estimated growth in 2015 was 8.4% according to the IMF. ** The company Hélèges contributed to the project by offering its expertise and its workforce.
Graduation ceremony in Nigeria

The first promotion of students who benefited from the Seeds of Hope program in Nigeria graduated from the IIT partner school! The graduation ceremony took place in November. 56 students from the program received their diploma this year. The video presents the course of the major of the 1st batch.

We repair light bars, fans, we install electrical circuits and we assemble electrical boxes. We also advise clients on the equipment on sale, and we answer their questions on the quotes they give to us. I wish other friends could come and learn in this place ».

Guillaume Yao, 1st year student, intern at SOGELUX

IN THE OTHER SEEDS OF HOPE COUNTRIES

In Morocco, the students presented their works during the COP22

After the “green talents” contest, the students with the best prototypes presented their works during the COP22 in Marrakech. After the COP, an event was organized in Kenitra, where the students were invited to tell their experience and present their work to their family, friends and teachers. A great moment of pride!

In Egypt, two new partner schools

As part of the memorandum of understanding between IECD, the Egyptian Ministry of Education & Technical Education, and the French Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, two other vocational training centres joined the project: a school for girls, the El Wardian Secondary Technical School, and a school for boys, the Ras El Soda school.

The Seeds of Hope program partners

The results of the last study on graduates’ occupational integration

- Working students: 25%
- Students who continue their education: 25%
- Students who work while continuing their education: 21%
- Students without a job or a professional activity: 14%

FIGURES—LEBANON

Publication

IECD and the association “Semeurs d’Avenir” created the Guidance and Employment manual with the support of the Drosos foundation. The document details the activities and methods used by the guidance and employment offices. The manual is available on demand.

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WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS !