

SWEDISH-ZAMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Annual report to the AGM 2010 for the year 2009

The Mindolo youth project, concentrating on human rights for youths, continued during 2009. It has a budget of 287,000 kronor for the period 2008 -2009 of which 259,000 kronor is a grant and 28,000 kronor is our own contribution for the two year project period. This project is the biggest undertaking the SweZam Association has embarked upon and it puts an extra demand on the people involved in the project. However, there are benefits such as the rewarding feedback from the participating Zambian youth.

The vision of the project is to reach out to Zambian youth, educate and empower them about real life issues, making them good and productive citizens in society by providing them with information regarding Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Gender. The means to achieve the vision are:

- to strengthen the established Youth's Rights Information Centre, which is used for capacity building and organizational development within the targeted area. Members of the first three youth clubs are engaged as mentors and peer educators.
- to build strong networks with secondary schools in the surrounding community, where new clubs will be established. Presently there are youth clubs in seven secondary schools (High schools) .
- to involve other youth and adults (parents, teachers) through outreach activities
- to network with other organizations that run or conduct youth programmes such as YAN (Youth against AIDS Network), and PPAZ (Planned Parenthood Association Zambia)

In our opinion the project is still successful which was again confirmed during my last follow-up visit in November 2009, and can to a large part be credited to the youth co-ordinator Bruce Mubanga and the youth club members themselves. The organization and focus of the project has evolved over time and the influence from the youth has increased continuously. The direction of the project has changed from establishing youth clubs at Mindolo campus, to forming youth clubs in schools and to conduct outreach activities in schools and the surrounding community in order to reach more people with the message of human rights. The project is now seen by the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) management as an modern institution introducing workshops on Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Gender where both parents and children are participating, having a dialogue on equal terms. Furthermore, the Youth Centre has been requested to train the staff at the District Ministry of Education office in gender.

Our application to continue the project for another three-year period 2010 - 2012 has been approved by SIDA/Forum Syd. Our own contribution will be 40,000 kronor. During 2009 we managed to raise 22,489 kronor of which 14,000 was paid for year 2009. The current balance is 9,813 kronor. We would like to thank several members for their contributions. However we need more donations and fund-raising activities for the years to come to secure the continuation of the project..

The Evaluation Exchange Programme was carried out during 2009. The purpose of the programme is to develop methods for assessing the effects of our project on the community involved. Three persons from Swezam visited Mindolo during two weeks in June to learn more about the project in the field and its target groups. Three persons from Mindolo visited Sweden during two weeks in October to learn more about Sweden, to meet other organizations working with youth and to develop methods for evaluation in co-operation with the Swedish participants. The results of this work will be integrated in the plans and budget for the Youth project 2010 - 2012.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 14 March 2009 at Etnografiska Museet, Stockholm together with the friendship societies for Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The AGM elected the following Board for 2009/2010:

Rolf Svanström	Chairman	1 year left
Karin Johansson	Vice chairman	Re-election 2 years
Elisabeth Persson	Treasurer	Re-election 2 years
Lennart Simonsson	Secretary	1 year left

Joyce de Maré	Permanent	Re-election 2 years
Ylva Werlinder	Permanent	1 year left
Magnus Halling	Permanent	1 year left
Lisa Arrehag	Alternate	New election 1 year
Anna Tyllström	Alternate	Re-election 1 year
Owen Mwinga	Alternate	New election 1 year

Tommy Hemmingsson was re-elected, Karl-Johan Sonnegård elected (new) as auditors, and Tell Åke Dahlöf was elected as an alternate auditor, all three for 1 year. No Nominating Committee was elected due to lack of candidates.

The board met on February 9, March 31 May 12 (Mr. Hide from ZNBC in Kitwe was filming us), August 28 at Sonnegård's home with an exquisite lunch buffet, on September 28 we held a telephone conference meeting, October 19, and December 7. At the end of the year the number of paying members was 106, a decrease from last year by 16.

The web site (www.swedish-zambian.org) is updated on a regular basis and members who have submitted their e-mail addresses, approx 90%, receive information about the updates. The web site has been modernised to facilitate simplified content updates and also giving readers the possibility to give feedback. The cost for printing and distributing the paper-based Newsletter has been reduced significantly through a majority of members downloading the Newsletter from the web site instead of getting a paper copy. There has been positive feedback from several members and others. People, e.g. high school pupils and students planning to travel to Zambia, searching the web for information about Zambia, have contacted us for tips and advice.

Our excellent relationship with the Zambian Embassy continues. The board meets on the premises of the embassy. Representatives from the embassy are invited to share information at the meetings. Independence festivities were held at the residence of the Zambian Ambassador on October 24. Representatives from the Swezam board were there together with many Zambian and Swedish friends. As usual it was a very pleasant and interesting event.

The informal After work meetings, once a month, continued. The purpose is to offer our members and others interested in Zambia, a possibility to meet and talk about Zambia, development issues and other things. Sometimes it was combined with a presentation of a specific theme like the Forum Syd book on youth and their influence. Attendance has decreased so we have to reconsider if we should continue this activity or not.

We have continued to improve our knowledge in the areas where we are active, like Human Rights. through work shops, book studies, Forum Syd courses and SIDA seminars.

The Association has been a member of Forum Syd during 2009.

The Financial Report indicates that Association's finances are in good order and that there will be a substantial surplus for 2009.

*Uppsala March 2010, for the Board
Rolf Svanström, Chairman*